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16 March 1983

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CONTENTS

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

West Africa's Economic Problems Reviewed (WEST AFRICA, 3 Jan 83)	1
Events in Francophone Africa Reviewed (Mark Doyle; WEST AFRICA, 3 Jan 83)	5
Success of Francophone, UDEAC Meeting Discussed (WEST AFRICA, 3 Jan 83)	7

ANGOLA

Carreira's Influence in MPLA Affairs Seen Limited (O JORNAL, 4-10 Feb 83)	9
Details of Causes in Recent Wave of Arrests (Costa Carneiro; TEMPO, 6 Jan 83)	11
Van Dunem on Cooperation With Portugal, Other Issues (Fernando Van Dunem Interview; DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, 29 Jan 83)	14
Country's Oil Producing Capability, Prospects Reported (TEMPO, 13 Jan 83)	23
Wood Industry Sector Cooperation With Cuba (JORNAL DE ANGOLA, 27 Jan 83)	26
Briefs UNITA on Repatriation of Portuguese	27

CAMEROON

Cameroonians Thrown Out of Nigeria Returning (WEST AFRICA, 21 Feb 83)	28
--	----

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Initiates Cotton-Marketing Campaign
(LE SAHEL, 31 Jan 83) 29

Briefs
Bangui Denies Holding Chadian Prisoners 30

CONGO

Congolese-Algerian Joint Communique Issued in Brazzaville
(Bassi Ehizi; Brazzaville Domestic Service, 23 Feb 83)..... 31

Minister Tours PRC-Aided Projects, Notes Congolese Shortcomings
(BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'ACI, 3 Feb 83) 34

PRC Womens Delegation Arrives on 11-Day Visit
(Brazzaville Domestic Service, 1 Mar 83) 35

Progress Report on Operations of State Enterprises
(ETUMBA, 29 Jan 83)..... 36

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Briefs
New Opposition Political Party 39

GABON

Briefs
African Front at UNCTAD Urged 40
Iranian Delegation 'Explains' Policies 40

GAMBIA

President Dawda Jawara Comments on Nonaligned Meeting
(BORBA, 22 Feb 83) 41

GHANA

PNDC Asked To Demand Nigerian Envoy's Withdrawal
(Accra Domestic Service, 2 Mar 83) 43

Attorney General Criticizes SIB Delay on Judges
(Accra Domestic Service, 1 Mar 83) 44

PNDC Member Receives Libyan Aid
(Accra Domestic Service, 2 Mar 83) 45

University, GBC Plan Rural Radio Projects (Accra Domestic Service, 2 Mar 83)	46
GUINEA-BISSAU	
Portugal's Economic Cooperation Assessed (TEMPO, 20 Jan 83)	47
IVORY COAST	
Country's Balance of Payments, International Debt Figures (Mark Doyle; WEST AFRICA, 14 Feb 83)	50
Details on Increased Hydroelectric Power (FRATERNITE MATIN, 3 Feb 83)	53
LESOTHO	
Briefs	
Basutoland Official Expelled	55
Telex Order	55
LIBERIA	
Briefs	
More FAO Assistance	56
More Ministers Commissioned	56
Aliens Round-Up	56
MADAGASCAR	
Preparations for Upcoming VIP Elections Reported (MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 5 Feb 83)	58
VITM Preparations for Elections Reported (MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 28 Jan 83)	60
MOZAMBIQUE	
Anti-Government Forces Suffer Setbacks (Brendan Nicholson; THE STAR, 7 Feb 83)	64
Briefs	
Trial May Expose MNR	66
NIGER	
Briefs	
Upper Voltan Prime Minister Arrives	67

NIGERIA

Elections May Not Be Held in 1983 (SUNDAY TRIUMPH, 6 Feb 83)	68
Anomalies in Voter Lists FEDECO Head 'Doesn't Know', Editorial	
'NAN' Analysis of OPEC Meeting Published (NAN, 24 Feb 83)	71
Nigerian Passports Reported on Sale in Zaire (NEW NIGERIAN, 5 Feb 83)	74
Expulsion Move Said Politically Motivated Against Ghana (Editorial; SUNDAY TRIUMPH, 6 Feb 83)	76
Country Warned on 'Dire Consequences' of Expulsion Move (WEST AFRICA, 14 Feb 83)	77
'Jobs Galore' Reported Following Expulsion of Aliens (NEW NIGERIAN, 7 Feb 83)	78
Pro, Con Views Expressed on State Employees Strike (THE NIGERIAN CALL, 9-10 Feb 83)	79
500,000 Quit Work Empty State Treasury, Editorial	
Jail Terms Ordered for Nine Maitatsine Participants (DAILY TIMES, 31 Jan 83)	81
'SUNDAY CONDORD' Editor Freed, Rearrested (Dupe Osibeluwo; DAILY TIMES, 11 Feb 83)	82
Import Measures May Affect Printing of Newspapers (Francis Okoro; DAILY STAR, 7 Feb 83)	83
Transit Camps Urged for Remaining Aliens (WEEKLY EAGLE, 6 Feb 83)	84
Pupil-Teacher Ratio Reportedly 100 to 1 (Yusuf Ozi Usman; NEW NIGERIAN, 7 Feb 83)	87
Country's Security System Called Obsolete (Olu Adebayo; SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN, 6 Feb 83)	88

General Obasanjo Sues Over Book on Civil War (THE NIGERIAN CALL, 9-10 Feb 83)	89
Land for Industrial Centers Said Unavailable in Six States (NEW NIGERIAN, 7 Feb 83)	90
Industries Claim Measures Cut Raw Material Supply (DAILY TIMES, 15 Feb 83)	91
Cosmetics Firm Runs Out	
Lever Brothers Cuts Production	
Food Specialties	
Lipton Tea Closes Factory	
Stocks of Most Commodities	
Hard Times Predicted for Shippers (THE NIGERIAN CALL, 9-10 Feb 83)	95
Federal Government Steel Transport Costs Detailed (Mike Opara, Margaret Ichull; NEW NIGERIAN, 3 Feb 83) ..	97
Cameroonian, Other Trawlers Said 'Pirating' Fish (Tari Febabor; DAILY TIMES, 14 Feb 83)	98
Briefs	
Net Officials' Murder Charge	99
Consumer Prices Up	99
Hunger Deaths Among Aliens	99
Fraudulent Pay Vouchers	100
Customs Task Force Dissolved	100
MP's Wives Keep Aliens	100
NPN Criticized Over Minorities	101
'STAR' Editor Taken Away	101
Oil for India, Sweden	101
Trade Restrictions Clarified	102
Cement Agreement With Benin	102
Plateau State Employees Strike	102

SENEGAL

Reasons for Diouf's Expected Victory in Elections Noted (WEST AFRICA, 21 Feb 83)	103
Interior Ministry Reports Legislation Election Results (Dakar Domestic Service, 1 Mar 83)	104
Briefs	
President Praises 'Smooth' Elections	105
Ruling on Identity Cards Protested	105

SEYCHELLES

India Offers To Train Naval Officers (NATION, 9 Feb 83)	106
--	-----

SIERRA LEONE

Political Future of Jusu-Sheriff Discussed (AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL, 2 Feb 83)	108
---	-----

SOUTH AFRICA

'RAND DAILY MAIL' Criticizes Secrecy on 'Salem Affair' (Editorial; RAND DAILY MAIL, 28 Feb 83)	113
Johannesburg Comments on Changes in Frontline States (Johannesburg International Service, 28 Feb 83)	115
Black Leaders Slam Horwood's Mini-Budget (SOWETAN, 18 Feb 83)	117
Eldorado Labor Leader Backs LP Stance (Elliot Tshingwala; SOWETAN, 18 Feb 83)	119
Illegal Shacks Outnumber Homes in Katlehong (Sam Mabe; SOWETAN, 18 Feb 83)	121
Briefs	
Pro-ANC Pamphlets	122
Sanctuary for Lesotho Refugees	122
Indians Reject Proposals	122
Police Reserve Force Increased	123
Civil Defense Organizations	123
Sofasonke Party Meeting	123

SWAZILAND

Editorial Warns Against Postponing Elections (Editorial; THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND, 25 Feb 83)	124
Economic Cooperation With Zambia To Increase (Mashumi Twala; THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND, 24 Feb 83)	126

UGANDA

Briefs	
Egypt Donates Drugs	127

ZAIRE

Joint Communiqué With Guinea Noted (Kinshasa Domestic Service, 26 Feb 83)	128
--	-----

Briefs	
Debt Talks	132
Cobalt Mining Reduced	132
ZAMBIA	
Briefs	
Legislator Opposes Press Restrictions	133
ZIMBABWE	
Minister Suggests Changing Legislative System	
(AFP, 2 Mar 83)	134

WEST AFRICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS REVIEWED

London WEST AFRICA in English 3 Jan 83 pp 14-17

[Text] WEST AFRICA's fundamental economic problem in 1982 was lack of customers — as it was for the rest of the world — because of the decline in economic activity in industrialised countries and, so, in demand for, mainly, raw materials, such as iron ore, cocoa, diamonds, tin, coffee, bauxite, rutile, groundnuts, rubber and many others including, notably, oil. This fall in demand for West African, and other Third World, products helped to reduce these countries' ability to pay (need and demand remained) for the manufacturers of the industrialised countries. This, with the consequent growth in industrial unemployment, further reduced demand for West African products. The immediate prospect for commodities is not bright.

The prime mover for the recession had been the massive increase in OPEC oil prices late in 1979 which first redirected available funds into paying for oil, instead of manufacturers and raw materials, and then prompted such economies in energy use (on top of a decline in industry's needs) that available oil supplies soon moved from apparent shortage to actual glut (in the short term). The higher OPEC prices stimulated non-OPEC producers to increase output and to undercut OPEC prices; the lower average market price prompted oil companies to reduce both their stocks and purchases of expensive OPEC oil.

Initially the higher price had given a boost to oil exploration and production planning along most of West Africa, though that activity slowed somewhat as the glut continued — it also hit strategic development work on alternative energy resources — especially when the Ivory Coast's Espoir field belied early hopes and Cameroon found itself facing a sagging market. (Benin's Sémé field has gone ahead to meet domestic demand and Congo and Angola are backing longer-range developments).

The most notable West African victim of the oil glut has been Nigeria, whose losses outweighed such benefits as other countries in the region may have had from slightly lower fuel import bills. The year began with details of a Nigerian Budget — which had been sadly delayed by the politicking of the National Assembly — based on an estimated revenue of ₦11,630m. against ₦14,745m. for 1981.

Unfortunately, and probably in part because of the politicians' delay, in the latter months of 1981 Nigerian importers had much increased their orders and thus the country's foreign exchange outflow; giving 1981 a current account deficit of ₦15,000m. and prospects of worse for 1982, especially as oil sales and revenue weakened. As a result in April President Shagari introduced austerity measures to try to discourage imports and to halt the outflow of foreign exchange.

Nigeria's shortage of foreign exchange (and some very strange debt management practices) have got her into difficulties with many suppliers who have not been paid, have delayed major development projects and made it harder for her to borrow the immediate cash needed to resolve her problems (though on a simple figures basis she can well be described as 'underborrowed'). President Shagari's Budget for 1983 estimates Federally collected revenue at ₦9,307m., based on daily exports of 1m. barrels of oil. Exports of goods and services in 1982 were about ₦10,000m. while imports cost about ₦11,400m. — even though the "austerity measures" are credited with a 20 per cent reduction in imports. (British exports — which make up a fifth of Nigeria's imports — were down about 20 per cent). The overall deficit (including capital movements) was ₦1,500m., reducing the external reserve position to ₦1,100m. But more restraints will be needed, and are expected, to bring

imports down to the N600m a month level, which President Shagari has proposed.

The increase in oil prices gave another upwards jerk to inflation worldwide, both directly and indirectly. To try to curb the rise the US and Britain raised interest rates, turning to surgery as the medicine of exhortation appeared to have failed. The attraction of higher interest rates led to large movements of foreign exchange and so to fluctuating exchange rates and counter-attractive interest rates to try to damp currency movements.

Although Nigeria may have benefited by the appreciation of the dollar — oil is traded in dollars — the principal effect in West Africa was that interest due on commercial floating rate loans shot up. West African debts may not have been on the scale of Latin American debts — of the overall deficit of non-OPEC and non-OECD developing countries at the end of 1982 of \$405,000m, just four countries, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and S. Korea were between them responsible for \$140,000m, but for countries that had been able to borrow only a small sum in the first place the increases in debt servicing were still very damaging.

Eventually the build-up in interest rates and borrowing came to a head in the summer when it became clear that many debtors could not service their debts. For a while it looked as if the international financial system might crumble. The idea was so awful that the world's bankers thought hard and found some confidence to keep going. At the same time the unemployment levels in industrialised countries persuaded the authorities to reduce interest rates, a trend which was encouraged by falling inflation rates — Britain ended last year at its lowest annual inflation rate for a decade. Perhaps, following these lessons, inflation will be tackled by structural changes rather than interest rate movements — the domestic, as opposed to imported, component of inflation in most West African countries has been structurally based.

The two countries most affected by the period of high interest rates were the Ivory Coast and Zaire, both of which had borrowed considerable sums from commercial banks. For the Ivory Coast self-restraint, diminished, if continuing, capital imports and a good reputation for economic management prevented the problem becoming severe and worrying to lenders. It probably helped that the Ivory Coast was already undertaking a stabilisation programme with the IMF and a structural adjustment programme with the World Bank.

Zaire, on the other hand, had offered little cheer to lenders who have for some years been lending to it merely to keep alive the possibility of recovering earlier loans and arrears of interests. Since June 1976 there have been six reschedulings of Zaire's debts covering a total of \$2,200m, and last year there were negotiations of various sorts with bankers and the IMF. Even though Zaire's export earnings from minerals have suffered badly because of the industrial recession there is a feeling that that, and even the international financial rigours, have had less to do with Zaire's economic difficulties than the way in which its finances have been, and still are, handled: inefficiency and apparent corruption probably cost Zaire more than debt servicing.

Most of the francophone countries also had to accept a devaluation of the CFA franc when the French franc was devalued. The impact of this will have varied depending on what proportion of their trade was outside the franc zone; it is not unreasonable to assume that much of their foreign debt was probably in francs rather than dollars, though they were affected like everybody else by the fall in demand for their products, Senegal and Togo being notable examples here. They must be awaiting anxiously the next devaluation of the franc — France's trade deficit for 1982 was about £830m.

Liberia, too, was badly affected by falling demand for raw materials, since its export earnings are based very largely on iron ore and rubber and on shipping which has also been in the doldrums. This came on top of attempts to remedy the unexpectedly big debt position run up by the Tolbert regime overthrown in 1980. As a result Liberia has had to be very restrained in its budget and development planning. It is pinning some hopes on oil exploration, not so much as an earner but a saver of foreign exchange.

Sierra Leone started the year with economic activity in decline and the government admitting that large sums of money had been dishonestly diverted from its control to the pockets and bank accounts of private individuals: sums that, had they been applied to useful development investment, might have meant a very much healthier economy. It was a further blow that many of the people alleged to have been involved were important officials and civil servants whose necessary absence from duty would affect possible progress.

On top of a system that was not working efficiently Sierra Leone also suffered the burden of a decline in overseas demand for

many of its exports, including a major weakening of the diamond market, especially for high quality gems which have often in the past given a necessary boost to the national revenue. To some extent the disappointing performance of the agricultural sector may have been a systemic fault rather than a failure by the farmers, certainly better producer prices and distribution systems would help to reduce the rice import bill from the \$40m. level. Another hope for reducing import bills would be a genuine discovery of oil for which some off-shore searches were carried out (to some extent at government urging). Of course, any find would not take immediate effect apart from raising the country's apparent credit-worthiness which is very low, so much so that the long pipe line of overdue payments has seriously hampered imports of raw materials to keep local industry occupied in a useful way, which has kept the industrial work-force in a restless mood ever since the "general strike" in the autumn of 1981.

Probably the best economic happening of the year for Sierra Leone was President Stevens' success in persuading Mr. Salia Jusu-Sheriff to take on the task of Minister of Finance, not only did he bring to the job an accountant's skills he had also earned considerable respect in the international community.

In addition to his financial expertise Mr. Jusu-Sheriff swiftly displayed political expertise by introducing a Budget, within the time required by the Constitution, which set forth the state of the nation's finances but contained no fiscal proposals; Mr. Jusu-Sheriff explained that he had not had time since assuming office properly to study the figures and would bring forward amendments to the Bill at a later date. When he did so he had reduced proposed government spending (and deficit) and clearly set the course for recovery. Even if it was going to be an uncomfortable route, at last Sierra Leoneans could justifiably travel with hope.

Shortly before Christmas, in an attempt to ameliorate to some extent the effects of the country's chronic shortage of foreign exchange which, as already mentioned, hampers those local industries that need imported raw materials, Mr. Jusu-Sheriff announced the introduction of a two-tier system for foreign exchange. In effect there will be two "markets", an official market operating an official exchange rate (currently 1Le + 80 cents US) and a commercial market in which such foreign exchange as is available will be sold fortnightly by tender. At the same time the Minister announced the ending of unnum-

bered import licences. It is the government's intention to merge the two markets once financial discipline has been restored.

For Ghana the year has been mixed. There were hopes that the new regime which took power on New Year's Eve 1981 would make the long overdue devaluation in the cedi. Unfortunately the opportunity was not grasped. The remarkable achievement in moving long-stored stocks of cocoa from the interior to ports was seen as encouraging, even if additional supplies of cocoa on an already over-hung market did not strengthen prices, it was felt that Ghana might gain more on higher volume than it lost in lower prices. A realistic restraint of smuggling was also seen as potentially beneficial. Ghana was one of the first countries to declare, and act upon the declaration, that high interest rates were not achieving their object. By the end of the year, however, optimism about Ghana had subsided somewhat. Too much seemed to be as before; perhaps hopes had been too high or perhaps politics and rhetoric had proved more attractive than pursuing increased productivity.

In his recent address to the nation Flt-Lt. Rawlings said of Ghana's economy: "On the domestic front, the past six years in particular have seen a steep fall in all areas of production . . . Our diamonds, gold and timber production has also fallen by one-third or more and yet we keep on needing items from those countries who dictate the prices of these items. It is not cedis they want . . . We have no power to dictate the prices of the items we necessarily have to sell to them but they dictate the prices of the items they sell to us and, as you and I know, the prices of so many of these items that we import have risen . . .

"Something even more painful is that most of these sectors are producing at a cost higher than the cedi equivalent price they command on the world market, leaving the earnings to one-sixth of the past. This makes it slight comfort for Ghana that the chairman of the major gold-mining companies have forecast a healthy demand for gold.

Flt-Lt. Rawlings also had some comments on cocoa: "Cocoa, our major foreign exchange earner, has fallen from a peak production of 401,000 tons. I say, cocoa has fallen from a peak production level of 401,000 tons in 1976-77 to 258,000 tons in 1980-81. That is not all. This situation had been further aggravated by the drop in the world price of cocoa from an average of £2,944 per ton in those days — in 1977 — to about £800 per ton in 1982. I hope you understand that. Good. Thus not only has our production level fallen by

almost half, but the price our cocoa commands has fallen to one-third of its average price five years ago. These are the harsh realities of our situation."

Ghana would certainly have been somewhat better off now had cocoa prices been healthier. Last January the average spot price for Ghana cocoa in London was £1,227 a tonne, by April it was down to £1,008. For June, July and August it averaged about £920 before starting to move up again to end the year above £1,000, mainly on forecasts that the current season might show a small deficit of supply against demand. It has to be remembered, however, that there are nearly 700,000 tonnes of stockpiled cocoa overhanging the market. During the year the monthly average for the ICCO daily price has drifted down from 99.25 cents (US) per lb to 70.74 cents and by the year's end had climbed back to the low 70s. The floor price under the current International Cocoa Agreement is 100 cents and the lower intervention price 100 cents a lb but the ICCO ran out of buffer stock funds last March and has not yet been able to agree on how to deploy a \$75m. loan from a syndicate of banks in Brazil (!)

Tin, too, has seen a year of descending prices. When the year opened a "mystery buyer" had seeming control over the market having bought so much of the available metal that the price of cash tin was nearly £9,000 a tonne with forward metal £1,000 behind. It also looked as if at the end of February the "mystery buyer" would be able to exert a squeeze by requiring delivery in forward contracts of substantial amount of metal. In the event this did not happen and prices were allowed to fall sharply. (The inside story of those months of market manipulation has yet to surface; it will be fascinating when it does). By the end of the year both cash and three month metal were about £7,440 a tonne, with the Penang price on the floor at \$29.15 ringgit a kilo and being supported by the International Tin Council's buffer stock funds.

vulnerable domestic industries against cheap, competing imports. At first sight West Africa was little affected directly, but any restraint of world trade must also affect West African countries. The obduracy of the European Common Market, so clearly displayed at the GATT conference in Geneva — which was meant to declare opposition to protectionism — about maintaining barriers to preserve the Common Agricultural Policy (a piece of chicanery so egregious that even politicians are beginning to be embarrassed by it) threatens many of them more directly. Not that West

African countries are themselves guiltless in applying protectionism at the expense of the mass of their own peoples.

Even though interest rates, and inflation rates which directly raise interest rates even when the latter are not being used as an anti-inflationary weapon, are lower now and so debt servicing burdens are less onerous, it is not going to be easy to borrow in the coming year. Lenders are going to be much more cautious (and may well have less money available for lending) and many borrowers are likely to find it hard to export to earn the foreign exchange to service foreign borrowings until the world breaks out of its recession. Perhaps the best hope of breaking the slump is by encouraging higher productivity among farmers, and especially in West Africa, considering the potential for import savings (which could be spent in development) and the local creation of both savings for investment and customers with money to employ that investment.

There had been some doubt as to whether there would be an ITC at all and much of the first half of the year was taken up by discussions and attempts to persuade various producers and consumers to join. The US and Bolivia finally declined to join, but Malaysia finally agreed late in June and the news lifted tin prices from below £5,500 to £6,400 when it was agreed that this meant there would be a sixth International Tin Agreement. Since then there have been moves to form a Tin Producers's Association — a sort of Tinpec — and efforts by the ITC to support prices by buying and by imposing export quotas on producers.

One commodity agreement that has demonstrated the efficacy of export quotas has been the International Coffee Organisation which imposed quantity restrictions which helped to maintain prices, as well as price triggers to release extra coffee, which have been operated while keeping nearby coffee at good prices. At the beginning of the year spot coffee was £1,133 a tonne at the end it was about £1,700. It was probably the improvement in prices under a toughish quota regime that finally brought a new International Coffee Agreement (to run from October this year) into being after a lot of hard bargaining, and there is more of that to come this year over allocations of quotas. The amount of coffee in store suggests that prices may weaken again this year.

Another economic fact of the past year was an increase in protectionism as various countries tried to defend particularly

EVENTS IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA REVIEWED

London WEST AFRICA in English 3 Jan 83 pp 11-12

[Article by Mark Doyle]

[Text] FRANCOPHONE Africa's big story in 1982, was the "OAU crisis". Sometimes at the centre of the drama, and always in the wings, was the abiding influence of *Francophonie*.

The Francophone States acted more or less as one in both acts of the OAU tragedy, whether supporting the Moroccan line over the Western Sahara, or supporting the legitimacy of Hissen Habré as President of Chad.

If the lessons to be drawn from 1982 are complex, one thing, at least, was clear: the francophone states, in their international stances and in their internal administrative systems, retained a remarkable homogeneity.

With apologies for "eurocentricity", I offer the sacking of Jean-Pierre Cot as France's Minister for Co-operation and Development as symbolic in 1982 of that "special relationship" between France and her former colonies. As *Matchet* explained late December, Cot had what passes for a "naive" understanding of Africa: that is, he thought it more important to grow food than to watch colour TV; he thought Human Rights a more important issue than Zairois copper or cobalt.

The "pragmatists", as personified by the Elysée's African adviser, Guy Penne, won the day in 1982, as they have throughout Francophone Africa. While the relationship between Francophone African capitals and the Elysée may still not directly concern those who matter (the majority), those who count in that relationship (the power-holding minority) still watch Paris comings-and-goings with considerable interest.

Economic activities at what is seen as the centre of the world's stage often have a disproportionate effect on Africa. It has sometimes been the other way round with politico-military actions. Which was the case with Chad in 1982?

Certainly, that harsh and bloody country has been in the headlines and has aroused more interest worldwide than its economic potential — the usual rationale for interest — would warrant. But what of the outside influences?

Habré would not have made his effective sweep through the north and east had it not been for the Washington-Cairo-Khartoum axis. On the other hand, one could argue that Goukhouni would not have had N'Djamena to lose had it not been for other international support.

And so this year's "co-operation" dance went on. Zaire changed partners to link up with wallflower Israel, perhaps only to encourage blushing America . . . Senegal belatedly joined hands with Angola . . . Cameroon, after stepping on Nigeria's toes, embraced her natural partner again . . . Gabon flirted with the US, if only to make France — who will apparently tango with anyone if the price is right — promise to up the stakes . . . Guinea, after 20 years in the cold, took to the floor, inviting advances from Canada, the US and France.

One cannot explain a widespread abuse of political power without looking at the overall context in which that power is exercised. In Francophone Africa, more than in other groups of countries of the Continent, the concept of The Centre is all. At the Epicentre, as ever, was Paris.

In the constellation, ruling politicians in their respective capitals saw themselves as The Centre. Thus Jean-Pierre Cot kicked-up quite a stir when he asked to see an opposition politician, Abel Goumba, on a visit to the Central African Republic.

Thus, Sekou Touré, Omar Bongo and Mobutu Sese Séko were able to play down their worst excesses when it came to relations with the outside world: they, after all, were in charge; why deal with anyone but "Le Chef", as Mobutu likes to think of himself?

Certainly, France's policy of recognising States rather than Heads of State — in some way inevitable — encourages this attitude. The OAU adopts, in theory, the same stance.

In 1982 the paranoid excesses of Touré, Bongo and Mobutu in the face of internal political opposition were not easy to document. A free flow of information is undoubtedly an enemy of dictators — in Conakry one has difficulty finding a newspaper at all. Nevertheless, later rather than sooner, details of the crimes these three had committed against their peoples emerged.

In March and April news came out that President Mobutu was affecting the arrest of about a dozen Shaba politicians who intended to set up a second political party. Four of these were from the "Thirteen of St. Sylvestre" who had criticised the President in December 1980.

The long jail sentences given to those "Second Party Plotters" — on the grounds that they wanted to foment violent insurrection — could have been more easily defended had it not been for the repression reported in other sections of Zairois society.

A group in Brussels — a somewhat safer place for Zairois opponents than Kinshasa — concluded that war was needed in order to achieve change in the country. A few examples: students were drafted into the army for demonstrations against Mobutu; Wamba-Dia-Wamba was arrested when on home leave from his university job in Tanzania; even the US Congress House Foreign Affairs Committee saw fit to question the Father of the Nation's techniques.

It was this insult from the US that apparently led to Mobutu's famous shunning of "petro-dollars" and the diplomatic *rapprochement* with Israel. Not surprisingly, following US diplomatic saleswoman Jeanne Kirkpatrick's cruise on the "Kamanyola", President Mobutu's yacht, the petro-dollars started flowing again.

In Gabon, where due to the small size and relative wealth of the country, the financial fate of Gabonese nationals was not so desperate, the state of political freedoms was no less parlous than in Zaïre.

President Bongo crushed the leadership of Morena, an opposition group which called for a dialogue with the ruling *Parti Démocratique Gabonais*. Thirteen of the 37 tried for subversion were sentenced to 20 years hard labour, despite a failure to prove violent motives.

In Guinea, Amnesty International called for an explanation for the "disappearance" of 2,900 people arrested in the 60s and 70s. The human rights organisation says it has the names of at least 78 people which it believes have died in detention.

Perhaps the major "event" of the year was the voluntary retirement of President Ahidjo. But "Ahidjo's bombshell" failed to explode. To put things in doublespeak, as the ruling Ivorian Democratic Party did at its 1980 Congress, this was a case of "Change with continuity", or, for it means about as much, "Continuity with change".

The hopes, or fears, engendered by the old age of the original Presidents — Senghor, Sekou Touré and Ahidjo, for example — have not proved justified. In Francophone Africa institutions and power structures — backed-up, more than symbolically, by French troops — are outliving their first leaders, though the position of some leaders, such as President Houphouët-Boigny, are yet to be resolved.

Of course, in 1982 there were also the junkets and the banquets so familiar to readers of these columns: the Pope in Gabon, Benin and Equatorial Guinea; Mitterrand in Niger, Ivory Coast and Senegal; and the best party of all, aboard the Zairois President's luxury cruiser, the Franco-African summit.

Casting around 1982 in search of promising developments has not been a rewarding task. But if these comments seem overly cynical, even pretentious, written as they are from London, they are also made with a profound respect for those journalistic colleagues in Africa who do not have the liberty to be as generous with their criticisms.

Bara Diouf, the Editor of *Le Soleil* was quoted recently by *Jeune Afrique* as saying we in London and Paris were "far from the constraints of Government, powerful vested interests and the reality of under-development". True.

And so, in deference to Bara Diouf, we could look forward to February's elections in Senegal for a dash of optimism. Those elections, following as they do an unprecedented political *ouverture*, along with the elections in Nigeria, will be a crucial test of democracy in Black Africa. Even if it is now possible confidently to predict the result. It is hoped that when the time comes to write a review of 1983, Senegal will figure largely, in a less depressing retrospective.

SUCCESS OF FRANCOPHONE, UDEAC MEETING DISCUSSED

London WEST AFRICA in English 3 Jan 83 p 50

[Text]

Four Summit meetings of Francophone regional groupings took place late December in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, the birthplace of President Felix Houphouët-Boigny. The Summit meetings were preceded by preparatory ministerial meetings in Abidjan.

The regional groupings concerned were

- The West African Monetary Union (UMOA), which groups Benin, Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta and Togo
- The West African Economic Community (CEAO), grouping the above plus Mali and Mauritania, minus Benin and Togo, which have just observer status.
- The Agreement on non-aggression and mutual defence (ANAD), grouping all members of the CEAO plus Togo and Benin
- The African and Mauritan Common Organisation (OCAM), whose last reported membership comprised Benin, CAR, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta.

Present in Yamoussoukro for the meetings were Presidents Houphouët-Boigny (Ivory Coast), Kérékou (Benin), Eyadema (Togo), Koutché (Niger), Ouédraogo (Upper Volta), Habyarimana (Rwanda), Diouf (Senegal) and Ould Haidalla (Mauritania). President Kolingba of CAR was represented by his Foreign Minister. Also present, with observer status, was President Habré of Chad. Official releases said Habré

was "the guest of President Houphouët-Boigny." It was speculated that the invitation was to compensate for Congo's veto on Habré's presence as an observer at the UDEAC summit in Yaoundé (see below).

At a press conference, the Secretary General of the CEAO said delegates would be discussing maritime and land transport systems linking Member States. The aim was to harmonise action in these fields so that the mistakes made in the air transport field — where "each country goes its own way" — would not be repeated.

Opening the ministerial conference of ANAD, the Ivorian Foreign Minister, M. Siméon Aké, said the organisation could be proud of the peaceful relations existing between the Member States.

The main decision taken by the Heads of State was to continue support for OCAM, which they said would be "revitalised." OCAM has been getting smaller over the years — it was founded in 1965 — as members have lapsed involvement. In November Mauritius — which adds a letter to the acronym — unofficially said it was to leave the organisation. There was no delegation from Mauritius present in Yamoussoukro.

The question of Mali's re-integration into the Franc Zone, which is managed by UMOA in concert with Paris, was once again postponed, mainly because of opposition from Upper Volta, which has a long-standing border dispute with Mali.

Summit in Yaounde

A two-day meeting of Udeac, the Central African Customs Union, took place recently in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Speaking at the opening of the Summit conference, President Biya of Cameroon appealed to all Member States (Cameroon, Gabon, CAR and Chad with observers status) to renew their commitment to the organisation.

Because of objections by President Sassou Nguesso of Congo, the Chad delegation was not seated. President Nguesso's objections have been linked with a Congo-Libya rapprochement over Chad.

The agenda for the meeting included co-operation in the following fields: customs, taxation,

statistics, transport, posts and telecommunications, science and technology, agriculture, industry, trade and commerce.

Established in 1964 by the Brazzaville Treaty, the Union encourages free trade between Member States and has a common external tariff for imports from other countries.

Present at the meeting were President Biya, who chaired the

talks, President Kolingba, President Nguesso and President Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea, who had observer status.

It was subsequently reported that membership of Equatorial Guinea in UDEAC had been approved in principle.

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CARREIRA'S INFLUENCE IN MPLA AFFAIRS SEEN LIMITED

Lisbon O JORNAL in Portuguese 4-10 Feb 83 p 37

[Text] A crucial meeting of the MPLA-PT (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola--Labor Party) is set for 15 February in Luanda. It will be closely watched by observers who are expecting it to clarify the Angolan situation at a time when President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has obtained "special powers" and has been making widespread use of them.

The situation of the RPA [Angolan People's Republic] is serious, both militarily and economically. South Africa has just occupied a large strip of Cunene province from where it is regularly attacking the North with aircraft. For another thing, UNITA, supported by Pretoria, has been carrying on guerrilla warfare in 15 provinces, recently massacring in Quanza-Sul, a column of FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] recruits who were being conducted along the road to a CIR (Revolutionary Training Center) believed to be in Benguela. The attack supposedly occurred in the Conde region. There were almost 100 casualties.

In the economic sphere, the MPLA knows that only after fighting has ended will they be able to recover supremacy over the fertile region of the plateau basically centered around Huambo (formerly called Nova Lisboa). In former times this was a very rich granary. Neither are the energy resources of the subsoil enough for paying the cost of the war. It is understood that Luanda would like to have an oral statement of South African intentions since the MPLA is now carrying on exploratory talks with the South Africans.

It was in this context that a serious power conflict occurred in Luanda in the spring of 1982. The tip of the iceberg became visible on Jose Eduardo dos Santos' anniversary when elements close to the central committee and generally knowledgeable about the orthodox Marxist line "honored" dos Santos in a cartoon by Rui Galhanas, editor of JORNAL DE ANGOLA, at the same time that he was represented in a theatrical piece by Artur Pestana called "Pepetela," the presentation of which was immediately criticized by the chief of state. The sketch by Galhanas, done in the style of a regular cartoon attributed to Costa Andrade called "Ndunduma," showed a violin player--and the president does play the violin--flanked by a

black woman and a white woman, and with hungry people in the background. As regards the theatrical piece, it was given live on television, a fact which added to the surprise of the spectators.

An inquiry having been launched, it resulted in the detention of Costa Andrade and other individuals, among them the female secretary of the number 2 man in the regime, Lucio Lara, and the latter's adopted son. At the same time various militants were dismissed and here, too, the action was aimed at Lara: one of those dismissed was his wife Ruth.

The most important head to "roll" was that of Ambrosio Lukoki, secretary for information of the central committee and chief of the all-powerful Department of Information and Propaganda (DIP). Lukoki himself having been removed, next his direct collaborators were also removed from their duties. This action caused the comment to be made in Luanda that "now the DIP is the president."

In the agitated meeting of the central committee held at the end of 1982, Jose Eduardo dos Santos asked for--and obtained--"special powers." He was at that time supported by Mendes de Carvalho, leader of the so-called "Catete Group." De Carvalho is a spontaneous individual who probably saw his move as a way to delineate positions more clearly. The loser at the meeting, it is said in Luanda, was Lucio Lara. And the shock waves might have included Iko Carreira who last year came back from the USSR where he had attended a military high command school. Whatever role Iko now has in the RPA's disturbed situation, it appears minimal in contrast to what was speculated when he returned from Moscow.

It is apparent, observers have said, that Jose Eduardo dos Santos will make sure, in the meeting's first "round," of having total control of this "puzzle," and that he will be wagering on dislodging the dominant East axis (USSR, RDA [German Democratic Republic], Cuba) in favor of the West or at least, by means of a persistent diplomatic offensive, on forcing a realignment of the two sides of the scales on which this country has been weighed since independence. The trips of Chester Crocker and Nicholas Pratt to Luanda should not be read in any other way. Nor should the attention which UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is giving to the situation in southern Africa in general and in Angola in particular, contaminated as they are by the Namibian problem, to the resolution of which Luanda has become linked by reason of having given sanctuary and support to Sam Nujoma's SWAPO.

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CSO: 3442/128

DETAILS OF CAUSES IN RECENT WAVE OF ARRESTS

Lisbon TEMPO in Portuguese 6 Jan 83 p 27

[Article by Costa Carneiro: "The Imprisonment of Costa Andrade and 'Slave Quarters Socialism'"]

[Excerpt] An Angolan source we contacted--visibly disconcerted over the way in which the case of Costa Andrade has been reported in certain political circles--told us that the play recently staged is "the reason" for his arrest and for his being fired from the job he held in the cabinet of Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Not just for the play itself which was written some time ago--the source told us--but because the author caricaturized and stuck his nose into the personal life of the president whose advisor he was, displaying visible disrespect for the man and for his high office.

The putative author of "Nao Toquesno Velho" ["Don't Fiddle with the Old Guard"], was thus a victim of his own lack of sensitivity and impertinence by presenting the play to the public during a gathering in honor of the president himself.

This sort of thing would have no major significance in a mature country with long-established political practices. In a developing land, struggling with violent social and political change, searching for its own identity and its destiny, this sort of thing is extremely serious, especially when it comes from someone very close to establishment.

Still according to our source, this does not involve a pretext to unleash an attack against the "left" wing of the party but above all a simple police action to determine responsibilities, as is done in any country of the world, with respect to the presentation of malicious insinuations against the figure of the chief of state.

It is in this context that one must interpret the dismissal of Artur Pestana (Pepetela) from his job as vice minister of education and of Ambrosio Lukoki (the most important one in this entire Angolan regime purge) from the job he held in the Central Committee, in the Political "Bureau," and in the administration.

However, again according to our source, all of those involved in the presentation of the play are still suspended from their jobs for further investigation;

all of them belonged to the departments of information and propaganda and of education and training in the party and the administration, including the German technician Ruth Piluger, the former wife of Lucio Lara, a member of the Political "Bureau."

In the meantime, the trumpets have been blown in unison in defense of his wife. With a mixture of insults and improprieties, without even caring to learn the real reasons or the truth of the matter--everything directed at him who served yesterday and who is being used today.

So much for the militants of the "just line" of which Costa Andrade is a fiery defender. The important thing is that he is defending what he considers to be a "just cause" even though it may be necessary to resort to lies, to trickery, and intrigue which only adds insult to injury. Anything goes. The end justifies the means.

The "special powers granted the president as part of a general national emergency plan" has nothing to do with the imprisonment of his former advisor in view of the culmination of what seems to be the start of an offensive unleashed since the beginning of last year by the Angolan chief of state against the dilution of power in his country.

Political observers are unanimous in saying that, ever since the death of Agostinho Neto, the country and the party have become practically ungovernable, not only due to the war imposed upon it by the South Africans who control a part of the south, but also by virtue of the position which UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] has been adopting since independence, creating an intolerable situation in the south-central region, generally considered the Angolan granary. "Hundreds of thousands of displaced persons are starving. The war has become very brutal there. Insecurity is widespread."

Specialists also observe that, in addition to this, and with the exception of petroleum prospecting and extraction, which involves essentially "offshore" processes, the economy is gradually being paralyzed. The party and the army have responded to this situation by doing nothing, especially under the influence of the "Zairians"--the Angolans who found refuge in Zaire and who returned to Angola starting in 1975--who are very numerous within the MPLA; the latter can report 15,000 dead, including 3,000 militants, out of a population of about 5 million inhabitants.

To put an end to the paralysis of leadership in a party split up into various factions, President Jose Eduardo early in 1982 launched an offensive with the help of the "Old Guard" of the MPLA of which Minister Mendes de Carvalho is the unchallenged leader, especially since that "Old Guard" for sociological, political, historical, social, and cultural reasons in fact is the undisputed heir of the thinking of Agostinho Neto.

A big drive against corruption, which is not at all popular in leadership circles among which the followers of the "just line" stand out, turned that sector off, it seems, and that was the sector that believed that the president's much-desired energetic action (the main cause of the disputes with the minister

of health, a Central Committee member and leader of the "nationalist" group is a "deviation" from the interests which would benefit only a few.

All of this leads us to believe that, although belatedly, President Jose Eduardo finally took upon himself the task of trying to create an Africa that which has been liberated--a fact which entails a twin task: building a society and a pan-African community and creating a distinct position in world culture and politics.

As a matter of fact "there is, in Africa and in almost every African, a pressing need to reconcile the past and the future, the traditional and the modern, which serves as a secondary or vertical dimension for his search for identity, and that, by the way, is similar to what happens to all human beings and all cultures."

5058

CSO: 3442/105

VAN DUNEM ON COOPERATION WITH PORTUGAL, OTHER ISSUES

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 29 Jan 83 p 7

/Interview with Fernando Van Dunem, Angolan ambassador to Portugal, by Oscar Mascarenhas; date and place not specified/

/Text/ The Government of the People's Republic of Angola is willing to look at /ways of/ improving the conditions for contracting Portuguese cooperants, if it is justified. Luanda is counting strongly on Lisbon's support for Angolan development, especially in the areas of infrastructures, petroleum, diamonds and manpower training.

The "Spirit of Bissau" is assuming more and more distinct contours, it is taking shape, gaining substance and practical dimensions. It has gone beyond the phase of friendly gestures of questionable significance and sincerity, and has moved into more prosaic, more effective areas of economics and development, creating a solid bridge between Lisbon and Luanda. An expert in international law and familiar with the intricacies of intergovernmental negotiation because of his diplomatic service in Brussels, the ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola /RPA/ came to Portugal with his sleeves rolled up and his hands free to help build Luso-Angolan cooperation. This was the keynote of a long conversation which Fernando Van Dunem had with DIARIO DE NOTICIAS.

While directing himself to the concrete tasks--with names and numbers--in implementation of the economic accords, Van Dunem is not neglecting his political mission, namely to clear the path, through Lisbon, for better international understanding of the strategy of his government to respond to the imperative commitments, pursuant to the principles of the MPLA-Labor Party, on behalf of peoples in struggle for their emancipation, such as the people of Namibia and East Timor.

Versatile, albeit with a studied flexibility, Van Dunem is open about matters which he does not consider essential, but he always knows how to guard his speech with the care typical of diplomats on so-called "hot" issues; he plays his role by the book. This did not prevent him, however, from taking a broad look at numerous questions, from Luso-Angolan cooperation to negotiations with the EEC; from internal political tensions with rebellious movements to the penetration of South African troops on Angolan territory; from the arrest of

Costa Andrade to the strengthened powers of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos; from diplomatic recognition by Washington to the presence of Cuban troops, at Luanda's request.

DIARIO: Mr Ambassador, you are an expert in international law, with broad experience in diplomacy and in international organizations even before Angola's independence. Can it be said that your appointment as ambassador to Portugal means that the RPA is counting strongly on this relationship and hopes to broaden its international ties through Lisbon?

Van Dunem: My appointment is consistent with the directive of the MPLA-Labor Party to expand bilateral relations. It comes as a result of that "Spirit of Bissau," recently strengthened by the visit of President Ramalho Eanes, which led us to feel we had arrived at a historic moment, a time to put our differences behind, and that we could cooperate to our mutual advantage.

DIARIO: Before Lisbon, you were ambassador to the EEC. How have relations between the EEC and the RPA developed, despite your refusal to sign the Lome Convention and Claude Cheysson's rejection of a bilateral relationship?

Van Dunem: Actually, when Claude Cheysson was CEE commissioner for development he refused to have bilateral relations with Angola on the pretext that this would destroy the common front of the ACP nations and, moreover, that since Angola was in the same economic and political situation, special treatment was not justified. I must say, however, that I had a very good relationship with the EEC, even during the tenure of Claude Cheysson, who is now foreign affairs minister of France. Thus we were able to benefit from a subsidy from the EEC which enabled us to complete the SOMAR complex, an important fishing complex worth, at that time, 1.4 million European accounting units, or \$2 million. The EEC also assisted Angola with food aid, supplying milk, wheat and "butter oil," in addition to such specific action as, for instance, technical assistance in preparing for most of the meetings of the SADEC /SADCC-Southern African Development Coordination Conference/, which, as you know, is the organization devoted to the development of southern Africa, in which Angola is a member and the ranking member in matters of energy. Thus, although we are not a member of the EEC, it has financed several studies of the energy problem in the area and is also financing other projects. The EEC's position has thus evolved, inasmuch as there was a time when various other credit which had been promised to us was vetoed by an EEC member.

DIARIO: Which member was that?

Van Dunem: I expect you can draw the proper conclusions, but I can only say that it was an influential member of the EEC and it was a matter of principle. I recall that, at the time, this credit which had been promised to Angola was given to another country which had just gained its independence. In any event, the position was superceded, inasmuch as the new commissioner for development sent several messages to our chief of state, and as a result of these messages it was established that Angola would take part in the negotiations to renew the Lome Convention. As a result of this commitment, the EEC has already unblocked about \$8 million, which means that our relations are

developing positively, and only time will tell where we will fit in, within the Lome Convention or outside it. We are prepared to adapt and negotiate the Lome Convention, but with the purpose of making a positive contribution so that the treaty which emerges from these negotiations will represent a change from the current one.

DIARIO: Without being pressured, then, to purely and simply accept the Lome Convention?

Van Dunem: There is no pressure by the EEC, because they understand our position.

Infrastructure, Petroleum and Diamonds

DIARIO: Now for the "bridge" between the first two questions: what role can Portugal play in this relationship between Angola and the EEC?

Van Dunem: I think that at this point this is a bilateral issue between Angola and the EEC. I do not know if Portugal could really play a role in this. I feel that Portugal--and we will return to this question later--has a very important role to play in the tasks of developing the African countries, specifically those in which Portuguese is the official language.

DIARIO: Let us go directly to this area: what have been the most salient items in Luso-Angolan cooperation up to now?

Van Dunem: Angola inherited a backward economic infrastructure. Moreover, Angola is a very large country and, to develop, it must have certain infrastructures: good roads, dams and bridges, for example. To date, Portugal's major cooperative undertaking has been construction of the Cambambe dam. This is one of the vital factors in getting Angola started. Several Portuguese firms will play an important part, not only in the electric installations but in the civil construction.

DIARIO: In what other economic sectors do you expect to have cooperation?

Van Dunem: In the petroleum and diamond sectors. In the petroleum sector, my government has made it possible for Portugal to explore in one block and I think there is an option for a second block. In addition, Portugal is going to help out with our refinery problem. To summarize, cooperation will be in the areas of prospecting, sales and possibly the transfer of technology.

Rules of the Game

DIARIO: Last May, Rocha de Matos, president of the Portuguese Industrial Association, said that Angola, currently the fourth largest customer for Portuguese exports, could become Portugal's principal economic partner. Do you agree? What steps must be taken to this end?

Van Dunem: By force of circumstances, after an interim period, we thought we could become a privileged partner of Portugal, particularly because we are

accustomed to Portuguese products and because they are normally labelled in Portuguese. Moreover, Portuguese products are priced within our means. I think that, although this should not be exclusive, it would be to the good if our trade relations went forward. But Angola does not have a deliberate policy of maintaining privileged relations with Portugal. We will buy whatever Portugal has to offer at a reasonable price.

DIARIO: Again in the area of economic cooperation, Portugal's economic structure is on a capitalist and politically liberal base. This is not the Angolan economic or political structure. I would like to know the rules of the game for this cooperation.

Van Dunem: It is written in our constitution and also in the MPLA statutes that, although we are a socialist state, we do not rule out the idea of relations with any nation, regardless of its economic structure, as long as it respects our sovereignty and as long as there is some advantage for our people. I do not believe that the difference in the political and economic systems is prejudicial to this cooperation, particularly since we would not be the first socialist country to have relations with capitalist countries.

DIARIO: Still, there are always some established rules for foreign investment. For example, some countries impose an obligation to reinvest part of the profit and to not allow all of it to leave the country. Does Angola have rules of this kind?

Van Dunem: Yes, we have a law of foreign investment which allows the investor to take home part of his investment. After taxes, he can take out up to 25 percent of his profits.

Political Cooperation

DIARIO: In the area of international political cooperation, what could be achieved between the RPA and Portugal?

Van Dunem: Portugal is a country with considerable international experience and has relations with most countries, and we are convinced that Portugal is in a position--even in that we speak the same language--I do not say to open doors, but to help us win greater understanding of our views. We do not expect other countries to agree with our policies. We just want them to know what we want and where we are going.

DIARIO: Irrespective of what government is in power in Portugal?

Van Dunem: Irrespective of the government in power. Certainly there will have to be a minimum of sincerity, but up to now we have had no reason to doubt the sincerity of the current outgoing administration, since the president of the republic went to Angola, the foreign affairs minister went to Angola, and I do not think there is any bias toward this AD /Democratic Alliance/ government, particularly in that we have never attempted to meddle in the internal affairs of any country. We only want them to respect our options and forms of government in return.

DIARIO: What assistance can the RPA offer in the diplomatic efforts to solve the East Timor problem?

Van Dunem: As you know, Angola has been independent for 7 years. It was a hardwon independence, achieved through a liberation struggle. We stand unequivocally for the principles of self-determination and independence. We will always stand beside the people of East Timor and I am sure that, in whatever way suitable, we will defend the just cause of the Timorese people. All the Portuguese-speaking countries which recently achieved their independence are concerned with the struggle of the people of East Timor and hence will support every diplomatic and political initiative on behalf of the Maubere people.

DIARIO: How does the RPA view military cooperation with Portugal?

Van Dunem: This is a difficult question for me to answer. I am not a military man, but I think that Portugal, with its experience, specifically in Angola, could assist in improving our military capability and--why not?--in the area of training itself.

DIARIO: How does the RPA feel about forming a multinational force for Namibia?

Van Dunem: I must be very clear on this question. If you are talking about a Portuguese force that would be part of a UN force responsible for overseeing the cease-fire and the implementation of Resolution 435, which should lead to Namibia's independence, Angola would see this as quite appropriate; this is a question that should be taken up between the Portuguese Government and the United Nations. But if you are talking about a force, as some have already suggested, which would be stationed in Angola, obviously we could not agree, not only because this would put Portugal in a bad position but because we must insure the defense of our own people with our own means.

Better Conditions for Portuguese Cooperants

DIARIO: How has the RPA received the Portuguese proposals for training Angolan cadres? How can these relations be developed?

Van Dunem: We have openly accepted all offers of cooperation from Portugal for manpower training. As you know, cooperation in training not only takes place here, since there are many Angolans with grants from the Portuguese Government and others without scholarships studying in Portugal, but Portugal also sends technicians to Angola, specifically to provide instruction. Obviously, we wish there were more cooperation, but in all these sectoral agreements there are a certain number of prerequisites and we are not yet in a position to meet all of them. I can assure you, however, that the Angolan Government is very receptive to having Portuguese cooperants.

DIARIO: We have heard that cooperants from other countries are offered better conditions than the Portuguese cooperants. On the other hand, it has been said that the Portuguese-speaking African countries always prefer Portuguese cooperants. Are there, in fact, differences in treatment and, if so, are any steps planned to change this situation?

Van Dunem: I must say that I have also heard tell of these differences. They may result from the fact that the cooperation accords and the service contracts were signed at different times. I do not know what specific countries are involved, but it is possible that monetary erosion had an effect on the payments to cooperants. I am sure, however, that my government will be willing to look with some sympathy on a revision of the terms of the contracts if by any chance it is necessary.

Case of Costa Andrade (Ndunduma)

DIARIO: From time to time there are warnings from the Portuguese authorities and protests from the Angolan authorities regarding certain attitudes of one or another member of the news media. Do you feel it is still so harmful to relations between the two states if a news organ refers critically to the instituted government in Angola or to relations between the two countries? In other words, is there any merit today to Agostinho Neto's declaration that "we are going to be a little deaf to the insults in the press and we are going to open our ears more to relations with the Portuguese Government"?

Van Dunem: I think this quotation from the late president Agostinho Neto sums up our state of mind very well. We do notice from time to time, with a certain amount of irritation, that the function of objective reporting, which should be characteristic of members of the news media, is not always respected. We accept criticism, but only if it is based on fact, constructive criticism, not intended to foment hatred. Since you have given me an opportunity to speak about this, I must say that there was one case about which there was considerable speculation in the press. This was the arrest of Comrade Costa Andrade (Ndunduma). Comrade Ndunduma's arrest had nothing to do with his role as a journalist. Comrade Ndunduma--along with other comrades, incidentally--was placed under preventive arrest because he committed what is referred to as lese majesty, and in this case an affront to the highest authority in the country, the chief of state. It was an affront because Comrade Costa Andrade, as a long-time member of the MPLA, should be able and was able to present his criticism to the appropriate bodies and did not have to resort to foreign outlets. This is exactly what I meant when I spoke of lack of objectivity and stirring up hatred. I was referring specifically to an article which appeared in a newspaper, signed by a journalist whom I do not know, although I do know that he was even employed by the government and may once have worked on the JORNAL DE ANGOLA. He wrote an article which, at first glance, seems insulting--insulting because he refers to "black ghetto socialism." Some people may have taken umbrage at this; I did not. In the end, I was even flattered because he recognized that we are socialist. He speaks of "black ghetto" socialism, but I must say that the black ghetto is simply a form or organization of African society and I think all Africans are honored to live in an African society. But there is one thing I do not understand very well, and it is to the discredit of the 500 years of Portugal's civilizing action in Africa; after 500 years, Portugal left us with a black ghetto society. I leave it to the newspaperman to draw whatever conclusion he likes. I am not at all angered by this designation which he has used. I am angered by the use of the term "black power," because it is contrary to the essence of the people of Portugal and the Angolan people. We have built a society--and I

have the impression that we have set the example--in which the problem of race does not exist. Otherwise I do not know how the author could have worked in Angola and on the official newspaper. Why do I speak of fomenting hatred? Because a certain unenlightened fraction of the population is capable of thinking there really is race hatred, that there is a xenophobia against certain people. This is not true. There was, as I said, lese majesty, and those who have been adjudged or are presumed to have participated in this act were subjected to detention measures. Costa Andrade is not the only one. Why single out the case of Costa Andrade?

Special Powers

DIARIO: Because he is the biographer of Agostinho Neto, he has been prominent since the time of the liberation struggle and he symbolizes the people; he stands out from the group. But in the article to which you referred, it is said that this incident has to do with the rise of more right-wing currents in the MPLA leadership.

Van Dunem: This is absolutely untrue. It is a matter of internal party discipline. There were those who deviated from their duty and they were subjected to preventive detention and suspension from the party. This is all. It has nothing to do with right or left, because the MPLA has only one line.

DIARIO: Recently there were some changes in the MPLA leadership. I would like to know the reason for strengthening the powers of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Van Dunem: As you know, the MPLA-Labor Party has a Central Committee, the Political Bureau /BP/. All the members of the Political Bureau have other duties to perform and occasionally it is impossible to convene the BP to take certain measures, or rather, certain measures require immediate action, so the president must have a free hand to be able to act, without consulting the BP, either because the matter is urgent or because the very reputation of the country is at stake. This is what led to the decision to confer--in certain cases--special powers on the president, powers which were conferred only to deal with the current political, economic and military situation--which is difficult, but which we think is temporary. It is not catastrophic, but it is difficult.

FLEC, FNLA and UNITA

DIARIO: In what areas of Angolan territory are there still packets of tension and struggle against rebel forces? Is the FLEC still in Cabinda, for instance?

Van Dunem: I can assure you that there are no problems in Cabinda. The exploitation of petroleum is proceeding normally, without disturbances. There are no problems in northern Angola, either, although occasionally you hear about attempts to infiltrate Angolan territory, but these are insignificant; they are unrelated phenomena and do not represent a large-scale operation.

DIARIO: Are relations with Zaire completely peaceful and back to normal?

Van Dunem: Completely.

DIARIO: Does the FNLA still have any real existence?

Van Dunem: Not to my knowledge.

DIARIO: Regarding UNITA, how far has it spread in Angolan territory at this time?

Van Dunem: UNITA troops are trained, armed and transported by South Africa. We are convinced that UNITA is able to conduct its operations in the interior of the country only because South Africa still occupies a large part of Cunene Province and even a small area in Cuango-Cubango Province, and UNITA can move through these corridors.

Truce With South Africa

DIARIO: But it has been reported that Angola and South Africa declared a 2-month cease-fire. Is this a decisive step in the pacification of southern Angola?

Van Dunem: If the report is true, this is only the implementation of the Sal accords. As you know, for the first time, the People's Republic of Angola and South Africa had a high-level meeting, between our interior minister and South Africa's foreign relations minister. Two questions were discussed: the problem of Namibian independence and the problem of southern Angola. Both sides offered proposals for consideration. I have no information that there have been new negotiations. What may have happened is that South Africa accepted some of our proposals. I can add that it is my government's understanding that the Sal negotiations were very positive and augured a possibility of reaching an agreement.

DIARIO: It has been said that the Luanda government should not ignore UNITA's implantation and should seek a negotiated solution. We are even hearing rumors that this sentiment has even been voiced within the MPLA leadership itself. Would you care to comment?

Van Dunem: The only comment I would make is that the MPLA has no intention of negotiating with UNITA. I am convinced that any UNITA implantation will disappear when Namibia is independent and the South African troops withdraw from southern Angola.

United States and the Cubans

DIARIO: Regarding international relations, what is the status of the issue of U.S. recognition of the PRA? It appears to have been imminent, but now things are not so simple.

Van Dunem: The MPLA has never had problems in maintaining relations with any country. The United States does not wish to recognize the People's Republic of Angola? It is up to them to make a move in this direction. But we are not retreating from our own positions.

DIARIO: One of the questions at issue is the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Is the end of this military presence in sight?

Van Dunem: This issue of cooperation with Cuba is a bilateral matter, and I feel the United States should be able to understand that we do not accept any imposed conditions. Last year our foreign affairs minister twice reiterated that the Cubans are in Angola at the request of the Angolan Government and they will leave when the Angolan Government asks Cuba to withdraw its troops. But I do not believe we are going to yield to pressures for this withdrawal.

6362

CSO: 3442/115

COUNTRY'S OIL PRODUCING CAPABILITY, PROSPECTS REPORTED

Lisbon TEMPO in Portuguese 13 Jan 83 p 25

[Text] By 1985, Angola will be the second largest oil producer on the African continent after Nigeria, with a daily output of 300,000 barrels.

Despite the effects of the worldwide economic recession on oil consumption, Angola plans to double its oil production in the next 3 years.

To achieve this, large investments have been made in the Cabinda concession by Gulf Oil Co. and its Sonangol associates. Meanwhile, despite the fact that ELF has generally reduced its budget for oil prospecting throughout the world, it has decided to increase its budget for Angola.

A joint program between Sonangol (Angolan government oil company) and foreign companies participating in oil concessions represents nearly a billion dollars in investments, out of which \$400,000 were invested last year. Under the program, using advanced technology with re-injection of liquid gas into the holes drilled to increase pressure, 40 wells were drilled in 1982, as compared to a scanty three in 1979.

Moreover, according to a Nigerian trade journal, Angola currently has reserves of about 1.5 billion barrels, which could soon increase to over 2 billion.

The Angolan Government oil company has been negotiating an agreement with oil multinationals investing in Angola. This agreement would provide for a list price for each one, within the current limits set for OPEC members.

You will recall that the Angolan Government decided not to join that powerful cartel of oil producers, as it felt that there were no immediate advantages to becoming a member.

The agreement also stipulates that the Angolan Government may cover the costs of inflation of crude prices on the world market.

Moreover, renegotiations to set the new quotas for the concessionaries are also being held.

The agreements signed, which will meet the demands of the oil companies with majority interests in Angola, i.e., Texaco, Mobil and Gulf, will make it possible to finalize the investments referred to. Gulf Oil has 49 percent of the Cabinda concession, with Sonangol holding 51 percent, and currently accounts for two-thirds of the total national output (100,000 barrels a day). It should double its production by 1985. The joint investment project between the Gulf Oil subsidiary in Cabinda (CABGOC) and Sonangol, budgeted at about \$1.2 billion, will make it possible for the Cabinda wells to produce about 200,000 barrels a day by the end of 1985.

The project provides for an increase in output in seven different drilling sites in the same concession: Malongo Norte, Malongo Sul, Malongo Oeste, Kungulu, Limba, Kali and Kambala. Eight wells were drilled in Kungulu in the past year. In Malongo Sul, 15 drilling sites are being developed in 1982-83. In Kambala there is one well under development, and in Limba two. In Livuite, there is one gas well and two oil wells in operation.

Meanwhile, Gulf has the Takula project underway: during 1982, 13 wells were developed and 22 more are planned for Takula in 1983. The Takula platform represents the major investment in the concession, as it is part of the project for injecting liquid gas referred to earlier. According to official estimates, about 15,000 barrels a day should be produced in 1982, and output should total 70,000 barrels a day by 1985. The well referred to is located about 25 miles northeast of the Malongo Terminal (approximately 20 kilometers north of the city of Cabinda) and it was discovered in 1980.

In the meantime, the gas injection project (GIP), which was officially inaugurated in November 1982 by the Oil Minister and the CABGOC General Manager Bill Orr, was financed by the United States, contributing about \$85 million, and the Angolan Government, which borrowed some \$50 million from American commercial banks for the purpose.

Who Owns the Thirteen Blocks?

Texaco Angola Prospecting and Production, SARL, managed by H.E. Littner, has about 40 percent of the concession of the second block facing Soyo, and the remainder belongs to Sonangol (25 percent), TOTAL (17.5 percent), and Petrobras (17.5 percent). Having made an important recent discovery, Texaco has a contract that permits it to drill three or four wells in the Suele area. During 1983, seven new wells in Essungu are scheduled for exploration. For this, Texaco renewed its contract with SEDCO for two drilling rigs already installed at the site.

As for ELF, which holds about 50 percent of the concession for "block 3", it has recently made four new discoveries and is ready to drill for crude at five sites: Palanca, with production at approximately 40,000 barrels a day; Pacassa 1, with about 6,000 barrels a day; and Punja and Nunce. ELF, which still maintains its base of operations in Ponta Negra, has plans to build a new base 300 meters from Shoio, as stipulated by the Angolan Government. At "block 3," where three drilling rigs (Dyvi Gamma, Adriatic

1 and Adriatic 2) are still operating, Mobil owns 25 percent, AGIP holds 15 percent, and Naftagas and Naftaplin each have 5 percent. According to a spokesman from ELF, it currently takes 3 months to drill a well.

In addition, TOTAL, with 50 percent of the "block 6" concession, together with Union Texas, which holds 25 percent, and Deminex, with the remaining 25 percent, has two sites to drill, and plans to interrupt its program for 6 months to conduct research on the seismic conditions of the area. The "Pentagon 82" rig has therefore already been taken from the site for shipment to the Congo, where it will drill for Cities Services.

Well-placed observers consider it likely that TOTAL will use a drilling barge in its future operations. Angola Cities Service Inc., which holds 50 percent of "block 9," together with Marathon, has an operable rig at the present time, and it has two wells in the area facing Kwanza: one 13,900 feet and another 10,200 feet. With its operations based in Lobito, Cities is going to begin exploring five new wells this year.

Petrangol, which has established a new company together with Sonangol, is currently producing 700 cubic meters a day in Kwanza and 5,000 cubic meters a day in Shoyo, for its refinery in Luanda. With regard to its drilling schedule, Petrangol has already begun exploring seven wells in Shoyo and three in Kwanza. In 1982 AGIP Angola also began drilling the seven wells indicated in the program which runs until 1985, and it has plans to contract a rig for 2 years for its exploration.

"Block 7" was leased by the Angolan authorities to IEDC, a consortium of oil companies and banks (Petro, Canada and Kuwait and National Bank, among others), registered in Switzerland.

Although it has no personnel in Angola, ESSO received the concession for "block 10," while Getty Oil Co. has the concession for "block 8." Sharing "block 4" with Petrobras and Petrofina, Sonangol still has no drilling plans, but studies have begun. According to well-informed circles, "block 4" is the block that could produce the largest volume of oil in the medium-term, largely exceeding the output of the Cabinda concession.

Angolan oil exploration, all of which has been offshore up to now, could soon begin expanding offshore prospecting. In this connection, Petrogal may begin exploring for oil in the Luanda region.

Angolan oil, considered by specialists to have a low sulfur content, currently meets the needs of the domestic market. Most of it, however, is exported to the United States.

Finally, with regard to the oil marketing network in Angola, last December Sonangol bought the facilities of Mobil Oil Company in Lobito and other areas in southern Angola, thereby giving it a monopoly in marketing oil in Angola. All the remaining offshore blocks and areas have not yet been leased by the Angolan government to any company, nor have studies on their potential been initiated.

Exploration has barely begun. Angola may in the medium run become one of the major oil producers, and the government is endeavoring to create the best possible conditions for the companies involved.

WOOD INDUSTRY SECTOR COOPERATION WITH CUBA

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 27 Jan 83 p 2

[Text] Cabinda--The purpose of a meeting held in this city on Tuesday, [25 January] was to find a common ground in the task of improving our technological and economic conditions by creating a mixed Angolan-Cuban organization for exploiting the timber resources in Cabinda province. Delegates of both parties attended.

Headed on the Angolan side by Graciano Mande, vice-minister of agriculture for forest resources, and on the Cuban side by Fernando Alvarez, an industrial forest specialist, the meeting brought into being a program provided for in a protocol for cooperative action in this sector which was signed by our two countries in December 1982 in Luanda.

According to the clauses of the agreement, this new organization is to begin its activities this year in the "SAFICA" and "INHUCA" areas of Buco-Zau municipality, approximately 50 kilometers from this provincial capital.

Graciano Mande revealed the production plan for 100,000 cubic meters of wood in the current year at the same time that he stressed the necessity for applying a new dynamic in working the forests to satisfy not only national needs but also for export.

During its stay in the province, the Cuban technical-commercial delegation composed of four teams is going to study, along with Angolan experts, the various kinds of wood which the province has and the uses to which each can be put.

It should be emphasized that the mixed organization will have two main tasks: exploiting the forest resources and partially processing the wood taken out. Once this organization has been formally created, Cuba will become the first country to cooperate with Angola in this sector since independence in 1975.

9972

CSO: 3442/128

BRIEFS

UNITA ON REPATRIATION OF PORTUGUESE--The six Portuguese who have been freed by UNITA from the reeducation camp at Tari in Angola, will be repatriated as soon as contacts for this purpose have been made, a UNITA spokesman said yesterday. Meanwhile, Portuguese diplomatic sources contacted by NP stated they did not know how to carry through on the matter at the official level. The UNITA spokesman also said yesterday that "in principle, there is no problem at all" in freeing these Portuguese, there remaining only the requirement to make official contacts as generally established by the International Red Cross. Nevertheless, the UNITA spokesman did have to explain that the previous warning issued by his movement about not freeing the Portuguese had been poorly interpreted because UNITA will only intervene whenever instances of military cooperation between the Luanda and Lisbon governments occur. Meanwhile the Portuguese Embassy in Maputo has protested against the public exhibition of four Portuguese detainees in the city of Beira. The detainees, according to the protest, were only being held under suspicion of crimes yet unproven. The four persons--Benjamin Junior, Antonio Fonseca, Joao Fernandes and Alcino Pinto--were shown shackled with their torsos bare at a meeting held last week by Armando Guebuza, the Resident Minister of Sofala Province. Besides the formal protest, the Portuguese diplomatic representatives probably also indicated to Mozambican authorities the Portuguese concern over the increasing intensity in the tone of the accusations being made against the detainees, our diplomatic sources added. [Text] [Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 10 Feb 83 p 3] 9972

CSO: 3442/128

CAMEROONIANS THROWN OUT OF NIGERIA RETURNING

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3419, 21 Feb 83 p 516

[Text]

Hundreds of Cameroonian illegal immigrants thrown out of Nigeria have been arriving at border towns, especially through Ekok in Manyo Division and flocking into Mamfe town, Ndian (Victoria), Limbe Dockyard and Dombu in the Donga-Muntong Division in Nkambe, writes David Achidi Nditang.

Some have told stories of maltreatment by some Nigerian authorities, robberies, seizures of their belongings and molestation.

Many are coming back absolutely penniless and without any belongings. Out of the many border towns Mamfe is the most affected. The Cameroon government has been low key in its reaction to the expulsion of its nationals from Nigeria. It remembers the 1981 border incident which hit the headlines and the subsequent threats of an all-out war on Cameroon by Nigeria because of the killing of five Nigerian army officials.

President Paul Biya recently announced the payment of compensation to the Nigerian government for the families of the dead army officers, and Nigeria on her part repaired and paid the damage which was done to the Cameroon Embassy by Nigerian students.

The Cameroon mass media has up to now said nothing concerning Cameroonians affected, but has only been using agency reports on the incident mainly affecting Ghanaians.

Cameroonians visiting Nigeria need no visas, as Nigerians who are here in their thousands also need no entry visa. Many Cameroonians are studying in Nigerian universities and the normal illegal trade and smuggling goes on between the two countries unabated.

Some of the Nigerians residing in Cameroon territory have no valid documents. Some are even without Nigerian passports or the defunct West African travelling certificate. The same applies to many Cameroonians residing in different parts of Nigeria. This correspondent knows some Cameroonians who carry Nigerian passports with changed names. As the northern border between Cameroon and Nigeria is not very well defined there is free movement between the Fulanis, Foulbes and Hausas of the north.

Illegal immigration goes on almost daily between the Limbe Dockyard between Cameroon and Nigeria as does goods trade. Many of these Cameroonian and Nigerian immigrants have been victims of engine-canoe disasters. Nevertheless, canoes go to and from Nigeria from Limbe, Ndian in Meme Division.

The Cameroon Red Cross is capable of looking after the arriving Cameroonian refugees from Nigeria. Nigerians residing in Cameroon are carrying out their business unmolested.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

KOLINGBA INITIATES COTTON-MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 31 Jan 83 p 4

[Text] Alindao (Southeast)--The Central African chief of state, Gen Andre Kolingba, opened the cotton-marketing campaign yesterday in Alindao, the location of the Basse Kotto prefecture, about 600 km from Bangui.

In a speech delivered on this occasion to over 10,000 persons, President Kolingba called upon his fellow countrymen to organize themselves even more to assure the chances of economic recovery.

"The solidarity effort must be extended to the entire national working community, as we cannot have disunity in the face of our national responsibilities," he said.

The "exceptional contribution" made by the Military Committee for National Recovery (CMRN) last year took place without disrupting public operations. He recalled that at the beginning of January 1983 the CMRN had asked salaried personnel in the national private sector to take part in the economic recovery effort.

Expressing the wish that "the spirit of solidarity will be manifested at all levels," President Kolingba asked the merchants to conduct their affairs in such a way that the prices of merchandise and foodstuffs will not be the subject of exaggerated speculation.

Cotton production has recovered in a spectacular manner, following the economic recovery program initiated last April by the government. Over 25,000 tons of cotton could be sold this year, that is 50 percent more than during the last marketing campaign.

8143

CSO: 3419/560

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

BANGUI DENIES HOLDING CHADIAN PRISONERS--Bangui, Feb 25 (AFP)--Chadian refugees in the Central African Republic found guilty of subversive activities against either country will be punished according to the law, Central African Foreign Minister Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Louis Yambala said today. But in a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he denied reports that Bangui was holding Chadian political prisoners, which would be exchanged with Central Africans being held in Chad. Such allegations were part of an international plot against Chad, Lt Col Yambala said, and he accused some Chadian refugees of abusing the asylum they had been given by the Bangui authorities. [Text] [AB251509 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 25 Feb 83]

CSO: 3400/825

CONGOLESE-ALGERIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN BRAZZAVILLE

AB232132 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Joint communique issued in Brazzaville at the end of Algerian Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani's visit to Congo--date not given--read by Bassi Ehizi, the prime minister's foreign policy adviser]

[Text] The lengthy exchange of views between the Algerian and the Congolese delegations enabled them to understand that the development of the two countries requires the strengthening of their bilateral relations and a clear understanding of international issues.

After a thorough analysis of our bilateral relations, the two prime ministers expressed satisfaction with the development of our bilateral relations and reaffirmed their firm determination to further develop them in the interests of inter-African cooperation, with a view to materializing the objectives and plan of action contained in the OAU Charter, particularly the use of all African potential resources as a matter of priority with a view to ensuring the development and the emancipation of the African people.

They took concrete measures in order to give relations between Congo and Algeria a wider dimension which will make it possible to further develop their exchanges in the political, economic, technical, scientific and sociocultural fields.

The two prime ministers examined the international situation both in Africa and in the rest of the world and expressed satisfaction with their identical views on all topics examined.

On the African front, the two prime ministers noted that imperialist and neo-colonialist acts in various regions of the continent are aimed at preventing the total and definitive liberation of Africa, and at creating and maintaining artificial tensions among the peoples of Africa engaged in the efforts of national building. They strongly condemned all imperialist and neocolonialist maneuvers aimed at creating and maintaining conflicts between the brotherly, friendly peoples of Africa with the view to perpetuating foreign domination over Africa, hampering the natural promotion of cooperation among African countries and breaking the ties of solidarity existing between them in conformity with the principles of the OAU Charter and OAU ideals.

The two prime ministers reaffirmed their active and unwavering solidarity with the brotherly peoples of Namibia and South Africa. They denounced the delaying tactics used by imperialist powers and the Pretoria racist regime, which blatantly violate the decisions of the international community made within the framework of both the OAU and the United Nations, in order to delay the inevitable independence of the Namibian people under the leadership of their only legitimate representative, SWAPO.

They demanded the immediate implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 as the basis for settling the Namibian question most likely to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people.

The two prime ministers strongly condemned the criminal policy of apartheid practiced by the Pretoria regime in South Africa. They also denounced the cowardly acts of aggression which it continues to carry out against the front-line countries, notably the Kingdom of Lesotho, the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The two prime ministers reiterated their unwavering support to the peoples of Namibia and South Africa in their struggle to recover their inalienable right to independence and national sovereignty.

After examining the situation in Chad, the two prime ministers expressed the hope to see the brotherly Chadian people recover peace and national unity and concord necessary for national reconstruction.

[AB232140] After examining the situation in northwest Africa, the two parties expressed their deep concern over the persistent tension and the risk of the internationalization of the western Saharan conflict because of the interference of non-African powers. The two parties reiterated their unwavering support to the Saharan people and to their only legitimate representative, the Polisario Front. They held the view that only direct negotiations between the two parties involved--that is, the SDAR and Morocco--can lead to the definitive settlement of the western Sahara problem.

In view of the stalemate in the OAU following the failure of the 19th summit at the scheduled venue and time, the two prime ministers reiterated their determination to work toward strengthening the OAU, which they consider the most appropriate body for the achievement of the goal of total and definitive liberation of our continent, for the struggle for the economic and cultural development of African people and for the installation of an atmosphere of peace, security and concord on the African continent.

The two delegations devoted particular attention to the Middle East crisis and in this regard, they pledged their constant, firm support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their only legitimate representative for the recovery of their inalienable rights, including the right to establish a sovereign, independent state. They emphasized that no fair and lasting settlement can result from a simple agreement. They therefore recalled that a settlement to the Middle East crisis must be comprehensive, with the participation of the PLO and the achievement of the fundamental rights of the

Palestinian rights. It must also provide for the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist occupation troops from all Arab territories under occupation, including Jerusalem.

The two sides expressed their great concern over the continued fighting between Iraq and Iran and considered that the fratricidal war is a real hindrance in the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggle and in the progress of the non-aligned movement. They therefore made an urgent appeal to the two brotherly countries to put an end to that fratricidal war through peaceful negotiations in keeping with the spirit and principles of the nonaligned movement. After reiterating their unswerving attachment to the principles and objectives of the nonaligned movement, they stressed that the policy of the movement has now become an irreplaceable element in the struggle for the liberation and total emancipation of the people, the settlement of international problems, the promotion of international cooperation on the basis of equality, the safeguarding of peace and security in the world, the democratization of international relations and the installation of a more equitable world economic order.

The two prime ministers accorded particular attention to issues of development and the restructuring of international economic relations and stressed the fundamental role which the developing countries must play in the establishment of a new type of relations between the developing countries. While reaffirming their full adherence to the pertinent resolutions of the UN General Assembly on this matter, they expressed the belief that the strengthening of solidarity between developing countries is an indispensable factor in the promotion of their cooperation. In this regard they reaffirmed their determination to work relentlessly for their collective autonomy and solidarity among developing countries.

Col Louis-Sylvain Goma expressed his great satisfaction over the visit to Congo by the Algerian delegation led by Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani. The Algerian prime minister thanked the brotherly people of Congo and their leaders on behalf of his delegation and on his own behalf for the warm, brotherly reception accorded them during their stay in the People's Republic of Congo. The two prime ministers considered that the visit successfully contributed to the strengthening of the ties of brotherhood, friendship and cooperation between their two states and to the strengthening of inter-African solidarity.

Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani invited His Excellency Col Louis-Sylvain Goma to pay a friendly visit to the democratic and popular Republic of Algeria. Prime Minister Louis-Sylvain Goma gladly accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

CSO: 3419/574

MINISTER TOURS PRC-AIDED PROJECTS, NOTES CONGOLESE SHORTCOMINGS

Brazzaville BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'ACI in French 3 Feb 83 p 2

/Text/ Brazzaville, 3 Feb (ACI)--The ministerial delegate to the presidency responsible for cooperation, comrade Aime-Emmanuel Yoka, accompanied by the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Congo, paid a visit Tuesday to the building sites and other production entities resulting from Sino-Congolese cooperation, which are located in Brazzaville or its immediate vicinity.

During a 5-hour period, Minister Aime-Emmanuel Yoka visited Chacona, the Kinsoundi textile plant, the hospital centers in Makelekele and Talangai, the state farm at Kombe and the building site of the palace of congress.

At the end of this tour, comrade Aime-Emmanuel Yoka, speaking of the cooperation between the Congo and its partners, said that these partners had imposed certain obligations upon the Congo. Thus in the installation of production entities, the Congo will be responsible for the maintenance of the on-site equipment. "We had a sad experience at the Kombe state farm" the minister of cooperation went on to say. "The state is unable to feed the pigs and their litters. In fact, last Monday, 150 piglets were slaughtered to spare them death from starvation." "This is not an isolated case," comrade Yoka said. The cattle at the PK 45 farm are also suffering from undernourishment."

This observation caused the speaker to denounce this state of affairs which does not square with the efforts now being exerted to ensure the success of the first Congolese 5-year plan.

"Why continue to negotiate other agreements if we are not able to honor our own commitments or obligations," comrade Aime-Emmanuel Yoka exclaimed.

8143

CSO: 3419/550

CONGO

PRC WOMENS DELEGATION ARRIVES ON 11-DAY VISIT

AB011344 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] A delegation of Chinese women arrived in Brazzaville yesterday evening on an 11-day friendly visit to our country. The delegation is led by Mrs (Zhao Cheng), member of the Executive Committee of the Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China. Upon arrival, Mrs (Zhao Cheng) stated she was satisfied with her visit to Congo because of the existing good relations between the parties and governments of the two countries. The proof, she said, was the visit that Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang paid to the country in January. Mrs (Zhao Cheng) stated the aim of her trip to the People's Republic of Congo-- that is to strengthen the mutual understanding and the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the Congolese Women's Union and the Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China, to see the accomplishments of the Congolese women and people these past years in all fields under the leadership of President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and the party and to fight together against colonialism, imperialism and racism for the happiness of women and children in the Third World and for peace in the world.

CSO: 3419/584

PROGRESS REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF STATE ENTERPRISES

Brazzaville ETUMBA in French No 681, 29 Jan 83 p 4

/Text/ The end of the first year of implementation of the 1982-86 Five-Year Plan gave the Ministry of Industry and Fishing the opportunity to hold a meeting with the heads of enterprises, which was chaired by its minister, comrade Jean Itadi, to prepare a progress report on recovery from 1979 to 1982 and to evaluate the physical and financial performances of industrial, agroindustrial and fishing enterprises.

To this end, three committees were established, namely:

- Committee No 1: agroindustrial and fishing committee;
- Committee No 2: industrial committee;
- Committee No 3: summary of accomplishments committee.

These committees, whose work began on Friday, 7 January 1983 and was ended during a plenary session on Thursday, 13 January 1983 by comrade Jean Itadi, expressed their satisfaction with all the physical and financial performances of the enterprises examined, as follows.

Concerning the Physical Sector:

Independent of the autonomous national management capability, enormous and appreciable efforts were made from the standpoint of quantity and quality, in spite of the age of the production equipment and the insufficiency, indeed irregularity, in the supply of raw materials for some enterprises and semiprocessed goods for others.

Concerning the Financial Sector:

Performance was satisfactory and would be even more so if certain stumbling blocks were removed from the long and difficult path of these enterprises. That is why the committee reported:

- the gradual readjustment of industrial prices at the right time, with account taken of production costs, particularly the costs of raw materials and imported

supplies, which are increasingly higher. The result of this readjustment will be the maintenance of the working capital of the enterprises at an acceptable level.

With respect to the evaluation proper of the first year of implementation of the 1982-86 Five-Year Plan, the performance figures as at 31 December 1982 are as follows:

<u>/Enterprise/</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Production Figures</u>	<u>Percent of Forecast</u>	
CIDLOU /Loutete State Cement Company/				
--cement	60,000 t	39,000 t	65	
UCB /Limestone Crushing Plant/				
--crushed limestone, gravel	24,350 t	16,030 t	65.83	
HUILKA /expansion unknown/				
--refined cooking oil	1,520 t	1,243,733 t	81.77)	76.82
--oil cake	2,650 t	1,904,803 t	71.87)	
PLASCO /Congolese Plastics Company/				
--1.5 liter bottles	2,400,000	2,181,948	90.91)	86.28
--Mayo water bottles	2,400,000	1,959,942	81.66)	
SUCO /Congolese Sugar Company/				
--raw sugar	32,000 t	28,453 t	88.92)	93.08
--molasses	11,280 t	10,971 t	97.26)	
MAB /expansion unknown/				
--imported flour	33,000 t	41,250 t	125)	99.05
--local flour	10,800 t	7,896 t	73.11)	
SIAP-Congo /Congolese Industrial Plastics Company/				
--miscellaneous notebooks	3,900,000	3,937,585	100.96	
SOVERCO /Congolese Glass Company/				
--hollowware	7,000 t	7,010 t	100.14	
SOTEXCO /Congolese Textile Company/				
--towels	209,513	205,136	97.91)	101.87
--miscellaneous fabrics (meters)	2,523,830 m	2,671,009 m	105.83)	

N.B.: A. The Congolese Maritime Fishing Enterprise (COPEMAR), a state enterprise established in June 1982, officially received four fishing vessels

(two trawlers and two sardine boats) on 9 September 1982. The initial fishing expeditions which began on 25 October 1982 ended in December 1982, with a production of 244,786 tons, demonstrates that production is already significant.

3. The Synthetic Fabrics Plant (UTS) was opened on 29 December 1982 under the patronage of the comrade president of the republic. During the trial phase, the plant produced 187,334 meters of synthetic fabrics. On the basis of these production figures, the committee, while stating that recovery is a medium- and long-term process, agreed to report that the results of this evaluation indicate that the process is already well under way.

8143

CSO: 3419/550

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

BRIEFS

NEW OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY--Equatorial Guinea, a former Spanish colony and the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, is once again news with the announcement of the appearance of a new opposition political party as an alternative to the present regime of Teodoro Obiang. The new political group, the Equatorial Guinea Progress Party [Partido del Progreso de Guinea Ecuatorial] at a news conference in Madrid this evening denounced the grave situation facing the country. Severo (?Omoto), leader of the Progress Party and a former minister of information and tourism under Obiang, had to go into exile and today makes his denunciations and sets out his objectives: [begin (?Omoto) recording] In response to this situation, the political forces inside and outside the country have decided to embark on a new course of resistance and denunciation by way of the different opposition formations and groups and, above all, to invite Teodoro [Obiang] to reconsider the situation in the country through negotiations and to initiate a dialogue with the opposition. [Text] [LD252103 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 25 Feb 83]

CSO: 3448/6

BRIEFS

AFRICAN FRONT AT UNCTAD URGED--Libreville, Feb 25 (AFP)--Organisation of African Unity Secretary General Edem Kodjo today called for a common front of African countries at the Sixth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to be held in Belgrade in June. Speaking at a three-day ministerial meeting to coordinate Africa's position at UNCTAD, Mr Kodjo said it was only by forming a "coherent group" that African states could persuade the conference to adopt development programmes, which they saw as a priority. He also urged a single "African voice" at the "Group of 77"--the association of some 120 developing countries--meeting in Argentina at the end of March. UNCTAD Secretary General Gamani Corea stressed that Africa's economic growth was inadequate, and in most states could not keep up with the birth rate. He called on Africa to give "a new boost" to cooperation among developing countries. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary Adebayo Adedeji welcomed the formation "before the end of 1983" of a new regional body, the economic community of Central African states. About 50 delegations from African states and international bodies are taking part in the ministerial meeting, which opened here yesterday. Items on the agenda include development financing, self-sufficiency in food, "south-south" cooperation, monetary reform, shipping, and the situation in Africa's landlocked states and least-developed countries. [Text] [AB251734 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 25 Feb 83]

IRANIAN DELEGATION 'EXPLAINS' POLICIES--Libreville, 25 Feb (AFP)--According to official sources in Libreville on Friday, an Iranian delegation is presently in Gabon to "explain" to the country's leaders Iran's policy and contribute toward strengthening bilateral relations. The delegation, which is led by a member of the Iranian parliament Ayatollah Amani, was received on Thursday by Rene Radembino Coniquei, secretary general of the presidency of the Gabonese republic, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Martin Bongo. At the end of these talks, a delegation spokesman told the press that "if Third World countries would consolidate their unity they could become a superpower and therefore prevent exploitation by the West." The Iranian delegation will soon visit Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mali and Mauritania. [Text] [AB252040 Paris AFP in French 1834 GMT 25 Feb 83]

PRESIDENT DAWDA JAWARA COMMENTS ON NONALIGNED MEETING

AU261519 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Feb 83 p 8

[Text] Banjul, 21 Feb (TANJUG)--Dawda Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia, has said in an interview granted to TANJUG that "most international conflicts are marked by the involvement and rivalry of big powers."

Calling attention to the nonaligned countries' opposition to various alien influences and their constant striving to close their ranks and thereby contribute to easing international tension, President Dawda Jawara said: "I hope that the nonaligned movement at its seventh summit conference in New Delhi will not allow the escalation of tension in the world to reduce its effectiveness."

The president of the Republic of Gambia believes that "in the conflicts between East and West, which are seriously marked by military considerations, only the moral force of the nonaligned movement can limit the military power of the two rival blocs." "This balancing force, as a vital stabilizing factor in international political affairs, contributes in some way to maintaining world peace and security," he added.

President Jawara expressed his fears that, "In view of the fact that no one would readily renounce the achieved advantages, it could happen that any kind of a consensus agreement that the United Nations might achieve on establishing a new international economic system would be difficult to implement." For this reason he thinks that it will perhaps be necessary to consider "the formation of regional groups which would guarantee justice in international trade relations." He considers this as "one of the methods which would prevent a further deterioration of trade conditions and establish a more just distribution in world economic relations."

Appraising the conflicts between nonaligned countries as "a reflection of the conflicts of interests which characterize the relations between sovereign states," the Gambian president said: "It would be ideal and desirable to co-exist in the world without conflicts. But it is never possible for the interests of various countries, including member countries of the nonaligned movement, to coincide permanently. For this reason the nonaligned movement has the obligation and duty to reduce the conflicts among its members to a minimum and insure their groups solidarity by using the good services of certain of its members to safeguard peace and understanding."

In President Jawara's opinion, the priority activities of the nonaligned movement in the contemporary situation must be aimed at "creating a new international economic system to insure justice and a more just distribution of the world's resources" and at "creating a more stable international atmosphere which will be free from conflicts and will lead to constant development."

According to the Gambian president's appraisal, at this time West Africa is a "relatively stable region" which "is gradually developing into an economic unit of great potential," thanks to the formation and activity of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)." He believes that several joint bilateral and multilateral projects which are planned or are being carried out within the framework of this community will "further cement the ties between the countries of the region."

"We believe," President Dawda Jawara declared in conclusion, "that there is sufficient scope for expanding bilateral cooperation between the Gambia and Yugoslavia further, especially in those fields in which Yugoslavia has greater experience and can help the Gambia."

USO: 3497/4

GHANA

PNDC ASKED TO DEMAND NIGERIAN ENVOY'S WITHDRAWAL

AB022006 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The Workers Defense Committee in the mass media institutions in Ghana has called on the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] to demand the immediate withdrawal of the Nigerian high commissioner to Ghana, Chief Adeyemi and his minister-counsellor. In a resolution signed by the representatives of the nine media houses, the WDC said their investigations into a story carried by a Nigerian newspaper, THE CONCORD, alleging that Nigerians in Ghana were being molested, had been written and published with the complicity of the two men, though unfounded. They said by their behavior, the high commissioner and the counsellor had sought to create bad blood for Ghanaians amongst Nigerians and thereby cause a break in the bond which unifies the working classes in Ghana and Nigeria. The WDC also said that by this action, the high commissioner had undermined his duty as a diplomat to establish and improve upon relations between the two countries.

CSO: 3400/860

ATTORNEY GENERAL CRITICIZES SIB DELAY ON JUDGES

AB011854 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The attorney general and secretary for justice, Mr G.E.K. Aikins, has observed that the delay in the submission of the report of the Special Investigation Board [SIB] has given cause to rumors. In an interview with the G.A [Ghana News Agency], he blamed the SIB for adjourning its sitting indefinitely last January without indicating whether its work had been completed. Mr Aikins said the police had also failed to submit dockets they were instructed to build on the case. The instruction to the police to build dockets followed the board's interim report late last year.

Commenting on the remarks of the attorney general, Mr J.O. Amoi, secretary of the SIB, said the board had completed its public sittings and the final report was, as he put it, in the draft stage. Mr Amoi said the board is anxious to get the work done efficiently and with speed. He said the board has been purely sacrificial and that no member had been paid any allowance. Mr Amoi said the work of the board had been hampered by the breakdown of the vehicle released to it by the castle Osu. He asked the public to bear with the board so that when we submit our report, the public may congratulate us on a good work done. The five-member board was appointed by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] to investigate the abduction and killing of three high court judges and a retired army officer in June last year.

CSO: 3400/860

GHANA

PNDC MEMBER RECEIVES LIBYAN AID

AB022037 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Ebow Tawiah, has stressed the need for African countries to unite so that there could be advancement on the continent. This they can do by demonstrating their solidarity through deeds and not words. Ebow Tawiah was taking delivery of 35 tons of relief aid from the Libyan Red Crescent in Accra today. The items include drugs, flour, olive oil, rice and blankets. Ebow Tawiah remarked that Ghana's relations with Libya should be a shining example for other African countries to close their ranks and work toward advancement. This, he said, is necessary because a lot of propaganda has been going on about Ghana-Libya relations.

The acting secretary of the Libya People's Bureau in Accra, (Abdala Abogeldian), called for unity among African countries. He said by doing away with imperialism, Africans can fight poverty, hunger and depravation on the continent.

Two organizations in the Soviet Union also donated 50 cartons of baby food to the Ghana Government to rehabilitate the returnees. They are the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society. The Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Anatolly Ivantsov, presented the gifts to the chairman of the Relief Supply Management Committee, J.E. Hagan. Mr Ivantsov said drug gift worth \$50,000 is expected from the Soviet government shortly. Later a representative of the UN Relief Organization in Geneva, Mr Morren, who toured the warehouse of the task force, assured Mr Hagan that the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] has enough spare parts to rehabilitate 23 trucks to cart drugs to emergency areas where they are most needed.

CSO: 3400/860

GHANA

UNIVERSITY, GBC PLAN RURAL RADIO PROJECTS

AB020952 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The School of Journalism and Communications, University of Ghana, has launched a rural radio communication project in the Agona district at a ceremony at Agona Swedru. The program, which is educational, will be development-oriented. Under it, educative programs on farming and fishing will be built and relayed in such farming and fishing areas like Apam, Breman Asikuma, Ejikuma and Mumford all in the central region. The idea is to bring farmers and fishermen together to discuss their achievements, problems and solutions for the benefit of all. The project is being sponsored by the Dutch government which has provided about half a million dollars through UNESCO.

Speaking at the function, the project coordinator and director of the School of Journalism and Communications, Dr Paul Ansah, said apart from the radio programs there will also be newspaper publications in Fanti to supplement it. He hoped all in the area will take interest in the program to make it a success. Dr Ansah congratulated the Dutch government, UNESCO and the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] for their assistance to the Ghana government towards the project.

The acting director general of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation [GBC], Kwame Karikari, in his address spoke of plans to improve rural news coverage. He said it is the wish of the GBC to introduce local news coverage in local languages from the regional capitals but this is being hampered by funds and inadequate facilities. He said the rural communication project will go to augment the existing rural programs of the GBC. Mr Karikari appealed to the Netherlands Government to sustain the program after the termination of the contract to enable other districts to benefit from it.

A representative of the UNDP which is monitoring the project, assured the government that the UNDP will see to the future development and expansion of the project. The representative, Mr Andrews Taylor, hoped that the Netherlands Government would give the project the much needed assistance. The charge d'affaires of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Mr Johannes Lundman, said further assistance to the Dutch government [as heard] towards the project will depend on the speed with which the Ghana Government fulfills its part of the contract.

Farmers and fishermen contributing at the function, thanked the Dutch government for the project and hoped that it will assist them to improve upon their work through the project. The Omahene of Agona Myakrom, Nana Nyarko Eku, chaired the function.

CSO: 3400/860

PORTUGAL'S ECONOMIC COOPERATION ASSESSED

Lisbon TEMPO in Portuguese 20 Jan 83 p 9

/Text/ There is cooperation with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in various sectors, with special emphasis on agriculture, fishing, communications and light industry.

In a schematic way, we see the principal specific aspects of cooperation in these and other areas but the conditions of this country and its financial difficulties must first be emphasized. Understanding that situation, we can appreciate with greater realism the work being done and the results achieved. In agriculture, the Geba River Valley project must be stressed. The ICE asked Portuguese Hydrotechnic to make a study of the economic feasibility of building a dam at Porto Sobrale in the first phase; Portugal is paying for the study estimated at approximately 3,850 contos.

The goal of the project is to prevent the removal of deposits by high tides, improve navigability and set up an irrigation system in an 18,000-hectare area.

Prospects are good that the EEM may finance this project as bilateral cooperation.

It should also be noted that aid and technical assistance are still being given to plant a 5,000-hectare cashew grove, commercially market cashew nuts and the General Directorate of Rural Development is sending improved horticultural varieties.

The two countries held talks about aid and assistance to Guinea-Bissau's fishing sector, aid related to economic, scientific and technical cooperation, vocational training, supervision in this country's economic zone as well as a study about setting up joint Portuguese-Guinea-Bissau companies.

Transportation

The National Highway System has given aid and technical assistance to its Guinea-Bissau counterpart at Silo-Diata, the National Company for Automotive Transportation of Guinea-Bissau.

TAP /Portuguese Airlines/, in addition to making flights to Bissau, has provided aid and technical assistance for coordination, organization and vocational training at LIA /Guinea-Bissau Airlines/.

The General Directorate of Aviation has also provided technical assistance, giving qualifying examinations for air traffic controllers and licensing them as well as providing apprenticeships and training courses.

The ANA /Airports and Air Transportation/ has also given Guinea-Bissau personnel training courses and apprenticeships.

Communications

The Portuguese CTT /General Administration of Post Offices, Telegraphs, and Telephones/ has provided significant technical assistance to its Guinea-Bissau counterparts, supplying materials and equipment, helping to broadcast signals, sending technicians, providing apprenticeships to Guinea-Bissau personnel and helping to maintain equipment.

Radio Mirconi has provided technical assistance for communications with other countries to the CTT /Posts, Telegraph and Telephone/ of Guinea-Bissau which uses these transmissions and, like the Portuguese CTT, has also provided various supplies, sent technicians ever requested by Guinea-Bissau, made repairs, maintained equipment, provided apprenticeships and other services.

Portugal will finance 50 percent--600,000 French francs--of the cost of Guinea-Bissau acquiring a hookup on Cabo Atlantis, the Dakar-Burgan-Lisbon exchange which will sufficiently improve this country's links with other countries.

The RDP /Portuguese Broadcasting/ has been providing technical assistance to the National Radio Broadcasting of Guinea-Bissau and will repair the Nhacra transmitter.

Repairing the Nhacra transmitter means making it operational at a frequency of around 100 kw, its highest frequency; because of various problems, it could only operate at 25 kw.

The RDP is also helping now to repair the Deutz and Dorman generators which supply energy to the Nhacra transmitter, currently the responsibility of the National Energy Institute of Guinea-Bissau.

Light Industry

Cooperation by EP, the Beer Distributors, involves continual aid and participation in all areas of CICER's /Brewery Company of Guinea-Bissau/ management, assuring efficient technical, technological, administrative and financial collaboration.

The National Soap Company, after a mission to Guinea-Bissau, decided cooperation was possible since the latter was interested and obtained its own financ-

ing for vocational training, commercial restructuring and technical assistance to large industries.

Heavy Industry and Mining

Having done studies on restructuring, operations and supplying of materials, Setenave is about to provide the management for the Naval Shipyards of Bissau, with financing from the European Bank and SIDA /Swedish International Development Authority/.

Petrogal has given aid and technical assistance to Dicol, its Guinea-Bissau associate.

A technical mission on geology and mining was formed succeeding one set up in 1981; it is expected to implement cooperation in various areas such as geological cartography, prospecting for diamond and gold lodes and later, prospecting and storing water to provide it to cattle and people and irrigate some areas.

Already in January 1983, it came after a mission to coordinate with Guinea-Bissau authorities the means to use for the above-mentioned projects for which a protocol was signed; it required one expert on the mission to survey the situation of the new Ministry of National Resources so that it can be structured, as requested by this ministry.

In late January 1983, another mission will follow to begin the diamond prospecting work.

9479

CSO: 3.42/111

COUNTRY'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, INTERNATIONAL DEBT FIGURES

London WEST AFRICA No 3418, 14 Feb 83 pp 381-382

[Article by Mark Doyle]

[Text] IF YOUR car breaks down in the middle of the jungle, its the fault of *la conjoncture*. If you can't get a decent price for your yams or cassava at the market, blame *la conjoncture*. Night club owners in Abidjan have even been heard to lament poor sales of pink champagne, and again, attribute the drop to *la conjoncture*.

What everyone is referring to is the present depressed state of the Ivorian economy. The conventional wisdom says the marasmus is due to poor world prices for the country's major export crops, cocoa and coffee. The currency this explanation has been given is extraordinary: it is as if the whole populace has received and swallowed a first level economics lesson on supply and demand.

It is true that the slump in world commodity prices has had an effect on the Ivory Coast. How could it be otherwise in a country that has based its development strategy on the export of cash crops? It is true, but far from the whole truth.

The open-door client State

In many ways the commodity price slump has highlighted the inherent dangers of the country's external economic relations policy. That policy stance is essentially one of an open-door client State to its former coloniser, France. That external policy, coupled with other factors, has led to economic growth rates and relative wealth unequalled in the West African region. But, keeping this in mind, it is not maudlin but constructive to dwell awhile

on the negative aspects of such a posture. Those negative aspects are structural and have little to do with low prices for coffee and cocoa.

First, the facts. Addressing a recent National Committee meeting of the ruling (and only) political party, the *Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire*, President Houphouët-Boigny said receipts from the export of cocoa and coffee had fallen from 900,000m. CFA francs to 225,000m. in three years. This was due not only to falling world prices but also to difficulties in selling product — the State was stocking 175,000 tonnes of coffee in its silos, the President said.

To this dramatic scenario the President added comments on rising import prices; the costs of imported oils, manufactures and semi-manufactures had risen. The President went on to announce an austerity package in the light of the international *conjoncture* which would include limiting housing allowances to civil servants, early retirement for some State employees and tightly controlled public sector budgets, particularly on the investment schedules.

The President's remarks are backed up by the latest report of the Ivorian Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber report also cited oversupply on world cocoa markets as a negative influence. But the businessmen also mentioned the constraints imposed on the economy by the Balance of Payments adjustment programme designed by the IMF and the state of public finances as brakes on the "Ivorian Miracle" of double digit growth rates.

TABLE 1
Ivory Coast debts (000m. CFA francs)

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Total debt service costs (principal and interest charges)	71.4	93.7	120.8	189.7	248.4
Total export receipts	676.2	687.9	692.2	724.2	854.3
Ratio debt/exports	10.6%	13.6%	17.5%	26.2%	29.1%

Balance of Payments imbalance

The Ivorian Balance of Payments is characterised by deficits on the "current account," which registers sales of goods and services, and surpluses on the "capital account," which registers investment money movements (see Table 2).

While cocoa and coffee receipts were riding high in the seventies boom years this disequilibrium could be coped with, for there was foreign exchange aplenty to service the foreign investments. Now the foreign exchange is in short supply but the structure of the economy is such that it needs Dollars, French Francs and Deutschmarks to function.

A striking feature of the Balance of Payments table is its consistent imbalance. It will be seen that the real villain of the piece is not falling cocoa and coffee receipts (included in current account exports). For this item has remained high and rising due to increased output of other agricultural products like timber, pineapples, palm oil and rubber.

The main negative items are services and transfers. In plain English these are transport and associated costs, salaries, profits and interest payments on debts. These debts are the consequence of heavy infrastructure investment, particularly in the public sector, as shown in the Capital account. The conservative *Quotidien de Paris* wrote last May: "The Ivory Coast is important to France because year after year it provides about 4,000m. French francs to its former metropole, about a quarter of which comes from a positive trade balance and three quarters from invisibles. "Invisibles" are items like repatriated *coopérant* salaries, consultancy fees and company profits.

Dollar debt weighs heavy

Also included in the services and transfers categories — which in 1982 totalled a

whopping 365,000m. CFA (about £686m.) are interest and principle payments on international debt. This debt, about two-thirds of which is State-contracted, is another, heavy, structural imbalance in the economy.

While the ratio of debt payments to export earnings has been rising, so too has the proportion of that debt in US dollars. This is partly a reflection of north American interests in Ivorian crude oil. Cruel irony; as the first tanker-load of Ivorian export crude left for Europe, fears of a third devaluation of the French franc (and hence the CFA) were growing. The stronger the US dollar is compared to the CFA, the more Ivorian Dollar-debt costs in CFA terms. About 43 per cent of Ivorian debt is in US Dollars, and the ratio of debt to export earnings is rising fast (see Table 1).

Total debt is over 2,000,000m. CFA francs (about £3,759m.). By 1985 it is estimated (by *Marchés Tropicaux*), that this debt will cost 600,000m. CFA per annum to service. That's an awful lot of coffee. And by no means all the debt was contracted to finance agriculture, or even agro-industry, on which the Ivorian "Economic Miracle" was largely based. Much was used to finance other State enterprises, which the President has now tacitly admitted, by dismantling them, were a drain on resources.

It is in the context of these Balance of Payments and debt constraints that the "saviour" of oil revenues should be seen. The Ivory Coast will this year become self-sufficient in petroleum products. Domestic consumption is about one and a half million tonnes per annum, which will be covered with 500,000 tonnes from the *Bélier* field and a million from *Espoir*.

In 1981 the oil import bill was 150,000m. CFA. At least this much foreign currency will therefore be saved. But 150,000m. CFA is less than 40 per cent of what was paid in the same year in debt repayments!

These figures show the importance of so-called "background" factors affecting the Ivorian economy. They show that not only prices of goods and services, but

TABLE 2
Balance of payments 1978-1982 (all figures 000m. CFA francs)

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982 (estimates)
Current Account					
Goods					
Exports (FOB)	590.3	579.6	600.0	689.3	802.0
Imports (CIF)	537.1	561.1	600.0	653.3	744.0
Export minus Imports	+53.2	+18.5	0	+36.0	+58.0
Services	-148.9	-210.5	-217.2	-267.6	-314.0
Transfers	-94.2	-113	-128.7	-146.0	-151.0
Current balance	-189.9	-305	-345.9	-377.6	-407.0
Capital Account					
Private flows	+35.0	+10.6	+23.0	+30.0	+12.0
Public flows	+132.6	+116.4	+154.8	+207.0	+268.7
Mixed sector flows	+40.2	+34.7	+27	-14.5	+28.3
Capital balance	+207.8	+161.7	+204.8	+222.5	+309.0
Balancing item	+2.0	0	-21.6	0	0
Overall balance (current and capital)	+19.9	-143.3	-162.7	-155.1	-98.0

longer term imbalances should be considered. *La conjoncture ivoirienne*, like any economic situation, has historical roots.

Those roots are in cashcrop export-led growth nurtured by a foreign influence on the modern "national" economy. That economy is, to an important degree, stimulated by foreign capital, driven by a significant amount of low-cost immigrant labour, and steered by (mainly French) immigrant managers. Those labourers — Voltaics, Guineans and Ghanaians on the plantations — have elsewhere borne the brunt of a confusion between problems of *la conjoncture* and structural problems, as recently displayed in Nigeria. Even the French managers have seen setbacks recently, with hints from President Houphouët-Boigny that their presence is being questioned.

Miracles, whether religious or economic, have limitations. Ivory Coast is now experiencing the limitations of its much-vaunted development strategy as the increasingly difficult international *conjoncture* lays bare an undernourished domestic economic structure.

DETAILS ON INCREASED HYDROELECTRIC POWER

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 3 Feb 83 p 18

[Text] At the EECI [Ivory Coast Electric Power Company] the financial year 1980-81 was marked by joining the Buyo generating station to the interconnecting power network.

Thanks to this new generator the company was able to continue with its electrical power production policy, based on a preponderant use of hydroelectric power. For example, in terms of total production of electricity, the portion contributed by hydroelectric power is now 90 percent. It was 74 percent in 1979-80.

Favorable rains make it possible to fill the Ayame and Buyo dam reservoirs to the maximum level at the beginning of financial year 1980-81.

At the end of September, 1980, the electricity produced amounted to 1,844 GWh [Gigawatt Hours--billions of watt hours], or an increase of 7.4 percent. The generators in the interconnected grid contributed 1,800 GWh of electricity, or 97.6 percent of total production.

Hydroelectric generators produced 1,660 GWh of electricity, an increase of 30.7 percent compared to the previous year. Their production amounts to 90 percent of the total production. The Taabo and Buyo hydroelectric generators produced 1,290 GWh of electricity, or 77.7 percent of total hydroelectric production.

Production by the generator at Vridi, 140 GWh, declined by 63.6 percent of total production, compared to 22.4 percent in the previous year. [as printed]

Regarding generators not connected to the grid, their production of 44 GWh of electricity represents a decrease of 29.5 percent compared to the previous year's production (63 GWh).

The maximum power reached in the interconnected grid was 293 MW [Megawatts] on 31 March 1981. This amounted to an increase of 11.8 percent over the highest level reached in financial year 1979-80.

Electricity delivered to the HT [High Tension] network by the interconnected generators amounted to 1,758.1 GwH, compared to 1,601.1 GwH in 1979-80, an increase of 9.8 percent.

The distribution system received from the High Tension network electricity amounted to 1,671.6 GwH, compared to 1,526.4 GwH in 1979-80, an increase of 9.5 percent. The Abidjan urban distribution division received 1,072.3 GwH, of which about 12 GwH were diverted to the Abobo division. The regional distribution divisions as a whole consumed 599.3 GwH.

The profit on electricity transmission amounted to 0.968 [as printed; unit not given]. It was higher than the profit for the previous year (0.953).

The financial year was marked by the completion of work on the Northern High Tension network, with the entry into service of the 90 KV [Kilovolt] line from Ferke to Korhogo, which is 48 kilometers long, and the Korhogo transformer station, which steps down current from 90 KV to 33 KV.

Furthermore, the Vridi-Sir 90 KV line began to carry electric power. It will supply the privately-owned stations of the Ivorian Refining Company, the first customer to be served with a 90 KV line.

Two transformers (each of 70 MVA [megavolt-amperes]) were constructed at Vridi. The transmission station at Bia-Sud received an additional 36 MVA transformer.

The entry on stream of the Buyo generator accentuated the imbalance between the location of the production and consumption areas. Nearly 80 percent of the electricity goes from the center-western part of the country to Abidjan along the Buyo-Soubre-Taabo-Abidjan line, which is 500 kilometers long. This leads to a certain fragility in the interconnected system.

On the whole the quality of service improved during the 1980-81 financial year.

In fact, the average length of breaks in the electricity service went down from 31 hours to 26 hours. Undistributed electricity went down from 5,766 MWh [Megawatt Hours--millions of watt hours] to 5,205 MWh. A particular effort was made on the construction program, which involved an average length of break of 1 hour 43 minutes, compared to 5 hours 44 minutes during the previous financial year.

Connecting the 225 KV lines was the cause of 65 percent of the breaks in service; connecting groups of generators was responsible for 22 percent of the breaks; and construction activity was responsible for 13 percent of the breaks.

5170

CSO: 3419/539

BRIEFS

BASUTOLAND OFFICIAL EXPELLED--The minister of justice and prisons, the Hon G.P. Ramoreboli, says that Mr Phoka Caolane, vice chairman of the Basutoland Congress Party, was expelled from the party because of his unbecoming behavior. In a statement released yesterday, the Hon Ramoreboli described Dr Caolane as a person who does not respect people and who has the habit of speaking ill of other people and making exaggerations. He recalled that in the last session of parliament, he was suspended because of untrue statements he had made about the speaker of the national assembly in the local newspapers. The minister dismissed as a blue lie the allegations that the leader of the Basotho National Party has suggested that the name of the BCP should be changed. He said that this is a trick, and Dr Caolane is trying to play to sow misunderstanding. He also dismissed as a lie the allegations that at a funeral held at (Khokhoba) for the late K. Rampita he said the BCP stinks. He said that what he detested was the acts of brutal murders. [Text] [MB251006 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 83]

TELEX ORDER--THE Lesotho Telecommunications Corporation has placed an order with Plessey Controls of Poole, South West England, for a national and international telex and data exchange, worth £485 000. It will be installed later this year in Maseru and will have an initial capacity for some 600 subscribers. The order, won in the face of stiff international competition, is for a microprocessor-based system which stores a message when lines are congested and forwards it when they are clear. This facility can also forward stored messages at a specific time, for example during cheap rate periods. Abbreviated dialling is also available in which long complicated numbers are dialled automatically by dialling a short two-digit pre-coded figure, using push-button controls. Conference calls will also be available in which a number of subscribers are linked simultaneously. [Text] [Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 11 Feb 83 p 9]

CSO: 3400/822

BRIEFS

MORE FAO ASSISTANCE--The Liberian Agricultural Attache to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Mr Dominic Ballayan, Jr., has expressed optimism for FAO's continuous support to Liberia's agricultural programmes. He said since his appointment as Liberia's first Agricultural Attache to the Organisation, prospects for more aid to Liberia from FAO are good. Mr Ballayau said the FAO and other United Nations Agencies are financing agricultural projects in Liberia at the cost of more than \$2.5m. These include among others: the development of applied research in tree crops, development of applied research in tree crops, development of applied research in vegetable production and pulses, strengthening agriculture and forestry, research education and training, College of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Liberia and the small farmers cooperative development fund with the Agriculture and Co-operative Development Bank of Liberia. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3419, 21 Feb 83 p 517]

MORE MINISTERS COMMISSIONED--A number of ministers and officials of Government have been commissioned into the Armed Forces while others already in the army received promotion. Those commissioned major in the army are: Justice Minister, Winston Tubman; Information Minister, Peter Naigow; Posts and Telecommunications Minister, Adulai Vandi; and Planning Minister, Emmanuel Gardiner. Others commissioned major are: Finance Minister Alvin Jones; Health Minister Mrs Martha Sendolo Belleh; Commerce Minister David Dwanyen; Agriculture Minister Alfred Fromoyan; Public Works and Labour Minister Capt James V. Burphy; and Mr Sumo Jones. The Minister of Defence, Colonel Gray D. Allison was made Major General, PRC adviser, Maj Ballah was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and the chairman of the joint security forces, Mr Edward Timoe, was commissioned colonel. The ceremony, which was held at the Barclay Training Centre, was part of programmes to mark Armed Forces' Day. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3419, 21 Feb 83 p 517]

ALIENS ROUND-UP--The Liberian authorities have rounded up many illegal aliens in the country and charged them with illegal residence, leading "wandering life and falsification of citizenship." Those rounded up include nationals of Guinea, Mali, the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. According to the immigration commissioner, Mr Edwin Tay, some of the aliens arrested have paid fines of up to \$1000 and are being allowed to continue their stay in the country. Earlier, the Liberian Head of State, Dr Samuel

Doe had criticised the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants in Nigeria. He said the action by the Nigerian authorities would only drive a deeper wedge into the prospects of African unity and undermine the foundations of ECOWAS. [text] London W.S. Africa in English No 3.19, 21 Feb 83 p 517]

CSO: 3400/850

PREPARATIONS FOR UPCOMING VIP ELECTIONS REPORTED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 5 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Only a few days away from the deadline for registering candidates for the VIP elections, the headquarters of the various revolutionary movements seem to be waiting only for the green light to proceed with election propaganda. No one is minimizing the stakes in this election; indeed, it is on the fokontany level that a political party measures its strength and its audience in the country. Some are approaching the elections with serenity, others are possessed by doubt, fearing that the verdict of 27 February, the beginning of the elections, will be unfavorable for them.

In order to take the pulse of one of the island's largest political parties, we went yesterday to the headquarters of AREMA at Ambohitsorohitra, where we were able to talk with a member of that revolutionary movement's political bureau, Mme Hortense Raveloson Mahasampo. She immediately proceeded to clarify certain misunderstandings existing within the party. She stressed: "There is only one AREMA, and a revolutionary slogan No 165 - S.G. to that effect was signed by its secretary general himself, toward the middle of January." Indeed, many were wondering whether there was also "another" AREMA, a branch identified by the "color of their eyes." [as published] We are assured that this never disrupted the party. "On the contrary, this shows that AREMA is a living revolutionary group in which debates are conducted in the most democratic way, with regard for the sensitivities of each." This is what an AREMA member told us. Mme Raveloson Mahasampo said in regard to Antananarivo city that her party had no specific objective except that it hoped to increase the number of AREMA fokontany at the outcome of these elections. Moreover, she said, the people are not unaware of our efforts for the benefit of our country; in Antananarivo alone we have carried out repairs on a number of streets or roads, etc...and without any ulterior election motive. She said in conclusion that AREMA would be running in all districts of the country in the VIP elections. Like AREMA, the Militants for the Establishment of a Proletarian Regime (MFM) are also rather modest in their predictions. The party is well organized and its members have been continuously active in the past few days mobilizing party sympathizers in each fokontany where the MFM is located. A leader of this political movement told us: "The party will not be well-off. In view of our minimal financial means and resources we will have to rely mainly on the imagination of each of us." We should note that we obtained these comments on the

university campus, since from what some people told us the MFM does not yet have a real headquarters in Antananarivo. "We are everywhere," they told us, "like moles, you know." As for the VIM, that is the party currently maintaining confidence and optimism. Significant in this respect was the interview two of the party's high leaders gave to "M. M.," and that will be sent elsewhere. By contrast, the AKFM-KDRSM--Congress Party for Malagasy Independence--Democratic Committee to Support the Malagasy Socialist Revolution--"prefers not to comment for the moment." Obviously, everyone is free to decide whether or not an interview would be beneficial. However, from listening between the lines of radio news, we know that the party is working harder than ever to restore its electoral health, and that it has the possibilities and means to succeed.

The Monima Ka Miviombio continues to affirm that it is still a member of the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (FNDR) and that the preparations for the VIP elections are going ahead as if nothing was up.

"Monima is a living force in the country, and we will respect legality during the election campaign." Our contract was not very explicit on the party's tactics for the coming elections. Let us stress in conclusion that in these elections the important thing is not getting the largest number of votes but rather seats, and particularly in good locations. The electoral districting is such that every revolutionary movement is now trying to estimate the real strength of the "opponent" in certain important localities.

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VITEM PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS REPORTED

Tammarive MADAGASCAR-HAINE in French 28 Jan 83 p 1

[VITEM [People's Movement for National Solidarity] press release, signed by J.P., VITEM press secretary; no date given]

[Text] The VONJY [VITEM], that revolutionary organization belonging to the ENDR [National Front for the Defense of the Revolution], established in the 110 *Fivondronana* [villages] of Madagascar, known by some as the party of national salvation and by others as the party of national solidarity and very well known on the international scene as having a moderate political position, that party, which is neither social democratic nor reformist, is not at all on the shelf, as some malevolent minds would have one believe.

On the contrary, it is healthy and remains the same, faithful to its principles, its ideology and its positions. Like its partners in the ENDR, it will participate in the coming elections, from the VII [extension unknown] to the legislative voting.

Its political Bureau, headed by its national president, held meetings immediately following the "assessment speeches" constituted by the presentation of wishes by members and officials to their leader, and asked those wishing the party to prepare for the elections next month because the VONJY has expressed its intention of being present in all districts on the island.

Second Wind

The VONJY is its second wind and has kept it for 10 years, because "the wind" is not a thing to be lost.

The VONJY is its law, its discipline, its code. National President Razanamirina is very, very optimistic about his party's future and under this brief "about-face" on the part of some members, a real test: "That served as a test," he told us. "We sorted the wheat from the chaff. It will be, we cannot be opportunistic. One must have impeccable faith, the deepest conviction regarding the chosen path and a determined determination to reach the goals established."

Role of the FNDR

The VONV, set up in order to protect the unity of the Malagasy people against colonialism, it was born following the threat of tribal war in Madagascar -- that party that willingly takes the label as an "irritant" as perhaps it is in national sovereignty and unity. In unity, the unity of the members of the FNDR, plays its role as a catalyst and reminder. It believes that only the FNDR, initially the skeleton of a single party, only the FNDR could orient the Malagasy socialist revolution properly. Furthermore, in order to perpetuate that position, the VONV emphasized the following, among the eight conditions it set at its last national seminar in Vangaindrano: "The establishment of the FNDR in its real functions -- that is, as a supreme political body responsible for the Malagasy socialist revolution. All members and affiliates are responsible and consequently, the FNDR will issue orders to the Government and define the political lines to follow in the execution of all decisions. The FNDR is responsible for the ideological training of the people so that there will be a radical change in thinking in favor of the Malagasy socialist revolution."

Optimism

The VONV already sees some of its decisions and proposals being taken into consideration: the reorganization and reform of the system of education or its restructuring (see 4); definition of the place and role of the private sector and its employers outside the FOP (expansion unknown) (see 6).

And all this really has sounded! The elections are near. All parties in the front must show what they are capable of, what they are worth! This will be a great test! It will be a test to pass or a great national competition in which the participants will have to give consideration of that mutual respect -- learn to the Malagasy even if it is a question of that inter-group emulation, in order to preserve the national unity. Everyone is therefore preparing for the elections.

For the VONV, it is a time for the general mobilization of all its structures and affiliated associations (women, trade unions, youth groups, cooperatives, the arts, literature, and so on), in short, all the live forces of the VONV! The political direction has set up certain election committees, the subject of the latest meetings will be the national president for all leaders at all levels in the area. It was a miniseminar to train organizers, a supreme lesson by President Razanandrian, filled with specific examples. It was for the purpose of a better organization for the coming elections, their methods, the role of candidates, instructions to follow! It was for the purpose of reviewing what has been done and what remains to be done!

Activities

As soon as the tasks have been assigned and powers defined, the party should give and the theme announced, all structures plunged into their respective activities:

1 -- Jose Ravelomantsoa, member of the Political Bureau, named deputy chairman of the party's National Technical Committee, an organ responsible for studies, analyses, conception, supervision and coordination, told us that in order to synchronize its activities, periodical meetings of all members will be planned.

2 -- The Coordinating Bureau has already gone into tours in certain districts of the VITM in order to solve possible problems, enjoying its role as the delegate to the Political Bureau.

3 -- The Technical Propaganda Committee, which includes comrades Andriamandrantoa and Rasitefanoelina, has reviewed existing texts and analyzed them with officials. It has issued instructions on practical procedures to be followed for the elections.

4 -- The KITM [presumably Committee of Rural Union of Madagascar] of the *faritany* [higher administrative unit] of Antananarivo, headed by Rasolofoson Lilian, has gone to the different villages to hold working meetings with officials, is setting up sections in the *firaisampokontany* [village associations], is engaging in ideological awareness and political training campaigns, and setting up the staffs of some villages, especially in Avaradrano, by Andrianaiivo J. and Hermann Rabiaza. Those in Ambohidratrimo, Ankazobe and Faratsiho have been headed by *faritany* officials. In Mrs Ramboa's Atsimondrano, the situation is promising. One can already feel the pre-election atmosphere. The same is true in Ambatolampy and Arivonimamo and many other locations.

5 -- The KITM in Antananarivo I, headed by Rajoeliso Roger and of which Christian Andriamasy is a member, has organized a debate at the Ampefiloha-compound SFF [expansion unknown] on Saturday. The KITM was aided in the districts by the first *faritany* official and the Coordinating Bureau official, Daniel Ramaromisa: Informing members, notifying them of the latest circulars from the Political Bureau and speaking to them of the elections was the purpose of the meeting.

6 -- The National Women's Bureau was specially received by the top VONJY official. Monique Andrianaivo and Jacqueline Rasamimanana both spoke.

President Razanabahinydid not hesitate to provide the women with baggage and provisions (*vatsim-pitolomana*), to inform them and give them advice from a party leader, after considering the wishes expressed to him by the women one by one.

7 -- In the canton KITM -- the third district of Max Ratsimandisa and Odile Ravelojaena or the fourth district of the Razakarimala couple and many others, for example -- these officials intend to make systematic visits to all read-and-file cells, ensuring their soundness and stimulating them.

8 -- In the sections at the *fokontany* [village districts], work is also well underway. Referring to instructions issued by higher organs, officials have their own organizations. Some prefer to contact each member and each home, as in the case of the section of Antohomadinika-Avaratra, the stronghold of

Mr and Mrs Raonindriaka. Others believe that instituting an ad hoc election committee would be better (Ampefiloha-compound and Ambohipo, for example).

4 -- Finally, it should be noted that the members of the Political Bureau have gone to the provinces to help rank-and-file leaders.

Conclusion

The VONJY once again emphasizes its resolutions made at its last national council meeting. It considers that the execution of programs of action for the establishment of the socialist society essentially depends on: the strengthening of our national unity; effective social, economic and cultural decentralization; the existence of united political organizations; the presence of a government, the veritable expression of the aspirations of the working masses; and the impact of our international relations.

J. R.
VITM Press Secretary

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ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES SUFFER SETBACKS

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 7 Feb 83 p 7

[Article by Brendan Nicholson]

[Text] The rebel Mozambique National Resistance movement, which has been a painful thorn in the side of President Samora Machel, has suffered several setbacks recently. Brendan Nicholson of the Star's Africa News Service reports.

With its southward offensive halted — at least temporarily — at the crucial Limpopo Valley, the Mozambique National Resistance movement (MNR) faces a major test of its military prowess and its credibility.

An indication that this reversal of the Frelimo forces' role is proving successful was provided last week by no less a source than the "official" MNR radio station, Radio Free Africa.

"The Voice of the Hyena," as it is known in Maputo, announced that as a result of a major offensive by Mozambican and Tanzanian troops in late December the guerilla forces had had to withdraw from 'certain areas.'

"However, in other areas of Gaza Province our forces have now launched a counter-offensive and morale among our fighters is high," it added.

Mozambique has frequently claimed that the MNR is simply a military organisation launched by Mr Ian Smith's government during the Rhodesian war, and "adopted" later by Pretoria.

This claim has been dismissed repeatedly by Pretoria as simply "communist propaganda," but it was supported dramatically recently by the United States State Department,

which said the MNR "receives the bulk of its support from South Africa."

The State Department described the movement as "... basically a military organisation, with none but the most general political programme apart from trying to replace the government of Mozambique."

Estimates of MNR strength range from 4 000 to 10 000 men.

Formed in 1977 after Mozambique closed its border with what was then Rhodesia, the movement initially comprised black members of Portuguese Army units who had fled from Mozambique after Frelimo came to power in 1975.

The MNR continues to carry out a wide range of attacks and sabotage, virtually from one end of Mozambique to the other.

Its repeated forays against the transport links used by Mozambique's landlocked neighbours to get imports and exports to and from the ports of Beira and Maputo finally goaded Zimbabwe into sending troops to help Frelimo late last year.

The two main disadvantages suffered by the MNR are its lack of any clear political direction, and that its "strings" are generally pulled from Pretoria.

Both these factors have dis-

couraged international moral or material support.

But the MNR continues to cause considerable damage to Mozambique's already struggling economy.

Last year their attacks posed such a threat that President Machel cancelled a planned trip to Europe at the last moment to take personal control of the armed forces involved in anti-insurgent operations.

"Successes" with which the MNR was credited included the destruction of 10 of the 12 navigation bouys marking Beira Harbour, and regular ambushes which forced the government to introduce convoy systems on major routes.

On several occasions the guerillas have captured and held small towns for brief periods.

Last August MNR began a fresh offensive from bases in Malawi, but appears to have stopped these raids because the main targets included Malawi-bound trucks and trains.

The attacks threatened its unwilling host — one of South Africa's few friends in black Africa — with economic strangulation.

More recently, the movement has warned that if Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe does not cease his military help to Maputo, it will begin attacking targets in Zimbabwe.

BRIEFS

TRIAL MAY EXPOSE MNR--MAPUTO--One of the five men facing trial in Mozambique in connection with the destruction of 34 Beira fuel storage tanks openly warned his friends to stock up on petrol days before the saboteurs struck, according to the official news agency, AIM. AIM quoted the Minister-resident of Sofala Province, Lieutenant-General Armando Guebuza, as saying that Benjamin Fox was a link man for the anti-Frelimo Mozambique National Resistance movement which was blamed for the sabotage. If the allegations made so far by President Samora Machel's government are true, then the promised trial of four Portuguese and one Briton could give a dramatic insight into the MNR's shadowy war. General Guebuza last week told a rally that the Briton, Mr Finlay Dion Hamilton, director of the shipping company Manica Freight Services, led a ring of MNR collaborators in Beira. Others accused are Mr A da Costa, Mr J Fernandes and Mr A da Costa Fonseca. No date has yet been set for the trial. [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 7 Feb 83 p 7]

CSO: 3400/816

BRIEFS

UPPER VOLTAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES--Upper Voltan Prime Minister Capt Thomas Sankara arrived in Niamey this morning where he was met by Prime Minister Oumarou Manane. Present at this ceremony were members of the Supreme Military Council and the government and members of the constituted bodies. The Upper Voltan prime minister is accompanied on this visit by Michel Kafando, minister of foreign affairs, Eugene Dondasse, minister of planning, and Barre Damou Justin, secretary of state for economy and finance in charge of budget. Here is the statement made by the Upper Voltan prime minister when he arrived in Niamey. [begin Sankara recording] [passage indistinct] We think that we are therefore accomplishing a lot of friendship and a lot of brotherhood. In this regard, therefore, I have come with a delegation of the People's Salvation Council and government to meet my brother and friend, the prime minister of Niger in order to [words indistinct] but also to strengthen with him all the ties existing in various fields between Niger and Upper Volta and to improve these relations. [end recording] [Text] 1A8241528 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 MI 24 Feb 83.

END 34957.

ELECTIONS MAY NOT BE HELD IN 1983

Anomalies in Voter Lists

Kano SUNDAY TRIUMPH in English 6 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] THE much awaited 1983 general elections in the country may after-all not hold. This is because of series of anomalies detected in the recently compiled voters register.

For instance in Oyo State, some highly scandalous anomalies and irregularities have been discovered in the proofs of the 1982 Preliminary Voters List.

In a letter to the executive secretary of Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO), Mr. S. S. Ajibade, Administrative Secretary, Oyo state branch of FEDECO, said the anomalies were without question capable of distorting the entire constituency units voting pattern in Oyo state and other states of the federation.

The 9-page letter dated December 24, 1982 showed that Oyo state FEDECO received proofs of the 1982 Preliminary Voters List for the state in regard to 11 local governments only, as against 24.

Besides this, the letter noted, names of people registered in one local government area have been wildly mixed-up with those of people registered in other local government areas of the state. For example, names registered in Ibadan were mixed up with those of people registered in Saki on the same sheet of paper. Proofs of Ibarapa local government were found in Irewole local government while those of Ifelodun local governments were discovered in Akinyele local government.

Apart from the mix-up in names and local government areas, a substantial number of proofs of registration units are missing in the proofs sorted out so far by the Oyo state FEDECO office. The letter indicated that in Ejigbo local government, units 37, 39, 41, 42, 49, 51, 52, and 55 are missing. Units 43, 46, 50, 56, 57 and 58 have a single sheet to show the names of people who registered in the area.

In Ede local government, proofs of 14 registration areas are also missing. The units are 06, 13, 16, 17, 19, 24, 36, 42, 25, 29, 53, 54, 56 and 57.

The letter also disclosed that proofs for Kaduna and Ondo states have been discovered in some local governments in Oyo state, suggesting, in effect, that Oyo state proofs can also be expected to have been mixed up with those of other states.

Mr. S. S. Ajibade who in his letter described the anomalies as "unresolvable" lamented that most of the problems and confusion in the Preliminary voters list resulted from the inability of the company that produced the electoral register to adhere to his suggestions as contained in a letter he wrote to the commission in September, last year.

A detailed explanation of how the proofs were produced by a foreign firm, Thomas De La Rue showed that the scan data forms were first off-loaded in a warehouse called Worting Road House in Basingstocke, U.K. The forms were thereafter torn into sheets and transported to another warehouse at the company's headquarters where the materials were scanned by the computer and fed into tapes "indiscriminately, irrespective of individual state and local government indentities".

The letter condemned the use of scan data forms to compile voters lists as against the orthodox method of using the old form EC. 1A, adding that voters register need not be printed in fanciful and permanent form since the law requires it to be revised before every election.

The administrative secretary who said he hoped the present register did not "eventually become a total reject" also warned that unless his suggestions were taken into account, the problems may still be repeated in the final voters register and this may "consequently throw the whole country into turmoil".

FEDECO Head 'Doesn't Know'

Kano SUNDAY TRIUMPH in English 6 Feb 83 p 6

[Editorial: "FEDECO, What Next?"]

[Text] With only a few months to go before the general elections, nothing is more damnable, disgraceful and lamentable as the recent statement by the FEDECO boss, Mr. Justice Ovie-Whiskey before the National Assembly that he does not know what the election time-table looks like or that he is yet to know which of the five elections is likely to be held first.

Indeed, the FEDECO boss is quite unaware of the gravity of his pronouncements, especially at this period of uncertainties. His utterances have gone a long way in confirming the fear of millions of Nigerians as to whether or not this year's elections can hold.

The conducive atmosphere for the smooth-running of any elections in Nigeria is certainly absent.

The voters registration exercise which was conducted was nothing but a woeful failure with numerous defectable anomalies. The contracts for the ballot

boxes and ballot papers are yet to be given out, and not only that, the problem of resolving which of the six electoral laws is genuine is still a big task before FEDECO. The half-hearted attempt by President Alija Izetbegovic to put this electoral law issue before the house is indicative of our inability to come up with an acceptable electoral law.

There are also the cases of leadership crisis before the courts of the land which obviously have to be disposed off before the elections. This means the question of who owns the PRP and the GNPP and the recent case of the NPP taking FEDECO to court over a change in its name to PPP, remain a glaring threat to the forth-coming elections.

FEDECO, itself which is entrusted with the task of organizing, if nothing else, a successful election is also no in order.

No doubt, there is a general consensus everywhere that the elections this year would not take place.

The conditions prevailing today, spell this out clearly in black and white.

The main fear, however, is that if the elections do not hold, what else?

CSO: 3430 775

'NAN' ANALYSIS OF OPEC MEETING PUBLISHED

AB240930 Lagos NAN in English 0850 GMT 24 Feb 83

[NAN feature: "OPEC Oil Ministers Meeting: A Failure?" by Towland Nwachukwu, NAN correspondent in London]

[Text] The recent consultative meeting of oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Geneva has been described by a section of the international news media as being a complete failure. This is in spite of the fact that none of the delegates has implied this.

However, certain issues did merge from the meeting which surprised most delegates. The ministers had gone to Geneva to discuss two issues. One was to reconsider the oil production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day, which was tentatively decided at last December's conference in Vienna. The other was to decide the production quotas for 1983 which members should adhere to.

According to an official of the OPEC secretariat, these matters were essential to maintain a balance between oil supply and demand, and to preserve OPEC's existing reference price of \$34.00 per barrel.

Before the meeting, OPEC officials had dismissed speculations that the reference price was going to be discussed and decreased. On their arrival, most delegates reemphasized this point, and indicated that current price differentials, based on the reference price, would remain unchanged up to the end of 1983.

It was against such a setting, therefore, that the meeting considered Nigeria's proposal to set a 1983 production ceiling of not more than 17.5 million barrels per day. Another Nigerian suggestion was to adopt a quota system that would among other things allow Nigeria to produce 1.35 million barrels per day--instead of 1.3 million barrels--and bring Saudi Arabia's present highest 7 million barrels down to 4.7 million barrels per day.

[Words indistinct] these proposals were initially accepted by 11 members, including Iran, Libya and Venezuela as being the most effective way of dealing with the present situation in the oil market.

Surprisingly, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait withheld their assent. This was supported by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). These four argued that

any production-sharing arrangement must be accompanied by increases in differentials for the lighter crudes--the Arabian light crude, and the African light crudes--which include Nigeria's bonny light. The latter has a low sulfur content.

But this was indeed an argument that was never mounted before the meeting. The differential for the African oil is \$1.50 per barrel, but Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE wanted it to be between \$2.00 and \$3.50 per barrel.

Makar Yahaya Dikko [OPEC president and advisor to President Shagari on petroleum and energy affairs] explained to newsmen that the majority of the delegates were surprised at the argument propounded by the four states. He said that this meant in effect that African producers were being asked to increase their prices at a time when crude sales have been depressed and the market is continuing to deteriorate.

Several weeks before the meeting, oil analysts had said that from the time OPEC had fixed production level at 18.5 million barrels per day, the international oil market had weakened. This, they explained, was due to depressed economic activity, the continued run-down of stocks by oil companies and an unusually warm winter in the West.

It was then thought that OPEC ministers must either come to terms with mutually agreed reduced production quotas, or face a free-for-all competition for sales. The latter would obviously create a big price collapse.

In the opinion of the African producers--Nigeria, Algeria, Libya and Gabon--supported by Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq and Venezuela, accepting the ceiling and quotas proposed by Nigeria would help in deciding the differentials.

According to one senior OPEC official, the majority support given to the Nigerian proposal implied a tentative solution to production problems which, he conceded, would be finally resolved with the question of differentials. This official seemed dismayed at the emergence of the Saudi argument about price and refusal to accept the Nigerian suggestion. He said: "We were working hard to solve one problem, but it appears that we have run."

Iran was no less taken aback by the Saudi attitude. Addressing a news conference after the meeting, Iranian Oil Minister Mohammed Ghannavi said that Saudi Arabia reverted the differentials issue so that the meeting could fail.

He said that Saudi Arabia, motivated primarily by financial aims, had attempted to "force our brothers such as Nigeria to accept adjustments in differentials to stabilize prices. He added: "By not accepting the proposal, we have proved what it was the majority."

The flexibility shown at the meeting by Iran and Libya was a pleasant surprise to most observers. This was because it was widely believed before the meeting that the outcome was going to depend mainly on the two countries, which in the past had ignored production sharing arrangements to boost their sales.

Besides, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Sheikh Zaki Yamani, did predict after the meeting that the price of North Sea oil was going to fall shortly \$2.00 to \$4.00 per barrel, and that some OPEC members, including Nigeria, would be affected.

But Nigel Lawson, Britain's energy secretary, said a day after the Geneva meeting that the British National Oil Corporation, the leading trader of North Sea oil, would not start a price collapse.

Recently, however, Britain has begun selling its oil at \$30.50 per barrel. This, in addition to the fact that Nigeria had not sold oil for almost two weeks, helped to influence that country's decision to sell its bonny light at \$30.00 per barrel from the OPEC price of \$34.00 per barrel.

Mexico, another oil-producing nation, has also said that it would seek to preserve the present pricing system. But how possible is this, now that it is providing the U.S. with oil in lieu of debts owed?

It is clear that the 13 OPEC members must begin reassessing their individual pricing and production plans. Nonetheless, whatever the next line of action may be, the Nigerian proposal should form the basis for discussions. In any event, it is the market that should determine production and supply of oil, and not the wishes of individual OPEC members.

CSO: 3400/bbz

NIGERIAN PASSPORTS REPORTED ON SALE IN ZAIRE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 5 Feb 69 p1 1, 16

(Text) NIGERIAN passports are being sold for about 340 Zaira (500) dollars per copy in the Republic of Zaire, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Alhaji Ali Baba has revealed.

The minister, who was defending his ministry's budget before the House of Representatives Committee on Finance and Appropriation on Thursday said that some 10,000 were stolen from Nigerian passport office by a notorious band of later said them to Nigerians and foreigners who use them for foreign exchange malpractices.

Alhaji Ali said that some arrest had been made, adding that the passport Department was being re-organised since it was transferred from the Ministry of External Affairs to his ministry.

He said that a task force would be set up to enhance the security of the passports and other documents.

Alhaji Ali attributed the present situation of prisons in the country to the fact that 10,000 prisoners were being housed in various prisons whose total capacity did not exceed 25,000.

The minister said the 10 new prisons were being built in the country but that his ministry needed more funds to complete them this financial year.

He said that the government was planning to build 10 more prisons in the next financial year, adding that the government was planning to build 10 more prisons in the next financial year.

"It will be necessary to provide 10,000 more beds, 10,000 more beds, 10,000 more beds and 10,000 more beds in the next financial year," he said.

He said that the government was planning to build 10 more prisons in the next financial year, adding that the government was planning to build 10 more prisons in the next financial year.

In two years, the minister said that the government was planning to build 10 more prisons in the next financial year, adding that the government was planning to build 10 more prisons in the next financial year.

also said that the Federal Fire Service would not go beyond the \$100 million of the National Fire Insurance Fund which was destroyed by fire recently.

The chairman of the committee, Mr. A. J. (Abe) Brown, said that 75 per cent of this year's total expenditure would have to be borrowed, adding that there was the need for the country to re-examine its priorities.

Continued...

EXPULSION MOVE SAID POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AGAINST GHANA

Kano SUNDAY TRIUMPH in English 6 Feb 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Chasing the Shadow"]

[Text] THE Minister of Internal Affairs, Alhaji A. Baba has stuck to his words, and right now thousands of illegal aliens are leaving the country for their respective countries.

Whether they would return soon is quite another matter, just now however, the Federal Government seems happy that the order is working (is being followed).

But if we are in support of the measure, which every patriotic Nigerian ought to be, it is the timing and the selectivity which bothers us.

It is apparent that majority of those affected are Ghanaians to be precise two million of them and given the present economic situation in that country, one can suggest with justification that the Federal Government's order was made with Ghana in mind in order to stifle the revolutionary government of Flight Lt. J. Rawlings and the achievement already made since his second coming. The fact that Nigeria has never called off her hostility towards that country under the Rawlings government has lend credence to such suspicions.

In any case, it is difficult to accept that the major perpetrators of economic sabotage against the country are the average Ghanaians, Chadians and Nigeriens that we are anxious to expel.

We should all know if we are honest to ourselves that Western transnationals in

active connivance with the ruling class and their business fronts in the country are the monsters we ought to focus our attention on. Thus to kick out poor homeless Ghanaians and Chadians doing jobs most Nigerians would not like to perform, is simply giving legitimacy to big time crooks, who usually have strong connection to top government officials. If only the immigration officials care to scrutinize, they will find out that there are many European and American nationals who do not possess valid stay permits but are staying put.

This is the reality the authorities always refuse to face.

Thus the order can only be meaningful if the priorities of the government are re-arranged in such a way that both small time and big crooks are dealt with accordingly, but most importantly if there is a readiness to free the economy from the clutches of the big transnationals and the exploitative arrangements that abound.

But for now with an entrenched minority clique and pro-capital NPN-government at the centre, a party notoriously known for its short sightedness and consummated greed, nothing of this sort can be expected and so we shall continue to grapple in an unending darkness for quite sometime to come.

COUNTRY WARNED ON 'DIRE CONSEQUENCES' OF EXPULSION MOVE

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3418, 14 Feb 83 pp 385-386

[Excerpt] According to Kaduna radio of February 4, quoting the minister, "Nigeria did not violate any UN human rights provisions by expelling illegal aliens . . . the illegal aliens have been involved in the destruction of law and order in Nigeria (and that) when the aliens participated in a series of religious crimes in which many lives were lost, nobody complained about violation of human rights."

However, inside Nigeria itself, there are some reports which have criticised the government action. Writing in the *Nigerian Tribune* of February 1, the Special Adviser, Ondo State, Professor Sam A. Aluko said the Federal Government's quit order is "unfortunate" and feared, "it is the black aliens, particularly our brothers and sisters from the West African countries who will suffer untold hardship. The non-black aliens will receive preferential treatment given the usual awe with which they are treated by our law-enforcement agencies". He went on: "It is usual when governments have mismanaged their economies for them to find scapegoats."

In an article in the Lagos-based *National Concord*, Tunde Obadina questioned the premise that with the expulsion of aliens, there will be enough jobs to go round for the country's unemployed. He asked, "if the Federal Government could drive out all or most of the illegal immigrants, will this in practice create jobs for the unemployed indigenous workers?" To answer this question, he said, it is necessary to know the structure of unemployment in the country. He said since no reliable figure or statistics are available it is difficult to judge the effect of the government's action on the unemployment situation. However, said Obadina, "it seems unlikely that with the departure of working class illegal immigrants, unem-

ployed Nigenans will be queueing up to fill the vacancies created by the mass exodus. For example, the unemployed Nigenans in the urban centres will probably not accept employment as a Naira-a-day casual labourers or ₦60 a month house guard or servant".

The Kaduna-based *New Nigerian* while pointing out that the foreigners involvement in crimes such as armed robbery and economic subversion are well-known, it does not believe the deportation of the aliens would solve such a problem. It said: "It would not be fair, though to blame escalating crimes wave on aliens alone. Most of the criminals are Nigenans themselves. This must be appreciated lest we make the aliens scapegoats for some deep-seated socio-economic problems now aggravated by the present economic crisis." Referring to an earlier leader comment in the *New Nigerian* which claimed that most of the Nigerian public supported the expulsion order, Dr. Ola Balogun wrote in the same paper of January 29 challenging such an assumption. He said: "While the *New Nigerian* is entitled to support Alhaji Ali Baba's initiative and to congratulate him for it, I wonder on what basis the *New Nigerian* can justify the blanket assertion . . . that Alhaji Ali Baba has public support. This may be mere assumption on your part." Nonetheless, Dr. Balogun concluded: "I make bold to state that in my opinion, the expulsion of West African nationals from Nigeria will not significantly benefit our country in any appreciable manner."

An Islamic preacher and Imam in Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Jibril described the expulsion as "un-Islamic" and that it could spell doom for Nigeria. He said Nigeria would not benefit even by "a jar of water" by throwing out the aliens and warned the country for "dire consequences"

'JOBS GALORE' REPORTED FOLLOWING EXPULSION OF ALIENS

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 7 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

ABUNDANT employment opportunities have been created for Nigerians following the massive migration of illegal aliens from Nigeria to their countries.

Job vacancy notices are going up throughout the country as employers of labour try to replace the illegal aliens with Nigerians.

Most of the aliens who entered Nigeria illegally were ordered on January 17 by the Federal Government to leave the country in accordance with an agreement reached by member-nations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Ghanaians topped the list with an estimated number of about two million.

Before making the quit order, the Federal Government had consulted the governments of the countries of the affected aliens, mostly from West Africa, and the governments had agreed on

their expulsion.

Majority of the illegal aliens picked up unskilled jobs while others were employed as skilled workers in various aspects of the country's labour market.

Mostly hit by the expulsion of the illegal aliens were construction firms, industrial establishments, security companies which were dominated by Nigerians.

Although some people hold the opinion that the illegal aliens were taking wages lower than the minimum wage of 125 Naira a month, the main issue as it affected the Federal Government was based on the illegal entry of the aliens and the fact that they have topped the list of those who participated in various kinds of disturbances and crimes.

Aliens with valid documents to stay in the country are not affected by the government's order.

PRO, CIVIL SERVANTS JOIN STATE EMPLOYEES STRIKE

50,000 CIVIL WORK

Current in English: 1983 Feb 23 p 10

[text]

CIVIL servants in the Cross River State have said NO to Dr. Clement Isong's pleas and have embarked on an industrial action throughout the state.

The workers, numbering about 500,000, yesterday began the strike action to back up their demands for payment of their January salaries and other fringe benefits.

Reports say that the decision to go on with the action came from the Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions following a breakdown in negotiations between unions' representatives and government officials.

In a statement signed by the secretary of the civil service union, Mr. Bassey Ndiyo, the unions described as unrealistic the government's inability to fix a definite date for payment of January 1983 salaries.

The statement said the unions would

the breakdown in negotiation the government suggested another meeting on February 18, 1983 but the suggestion was turned down.

Yesterday normal government duties virtually came to a halt as workers just sat idle in their posts.

Our reporter who visited some government ministries reports that some government officials seemed to hand out memoranda as they joined the action.

Some workers who spoke to the Nigerian CMTU said they were acting on the directive of their union leaders.

Speaking to the Nigerian CMTU, the secretary of the civil service union, Mr. Bassey Ndiyo said public servants are demanding the government to pay their salaries.

Mr. Ndiyo said the unions are not interested in the government's offer to pay salaries in installments.

Empty State Treasury

Calabar THE LIBERIAN CALL in English, 9-10 Feb. 1977, p. 1

[Editorial: "Get Back to Work"]

[Text] THERE is nothing as frustrating as working on an empty stomach. The present outrage of public servants in the Cross River State is, therefore, understandable.

For months very many of them have not been paid. At the Agricultural Development Corporation and the Obudu Cattle Ranch records have been set for non-payment of salaries.

Ranch workers have gone for one year without salaries. ADC employees have, for two years, not known what it is like to sign for pay cheques. All that is reprehensible.

The industrial action started yesterday by public servants seen, therefore, as the last resort of exhausted patience is quite understandable.

But having made their point, the workers might want to consider the ramifications of the action. What are they likely to gain by a protracted strike?

As Governor Clement Isong contacted the other day, the

State has an empty treasury. And what can the workers get out of an empty treasury? Nothing.

This paper agrees with the workers that the treasury is a consequence of financial recklessness by some men in government and it has not spared any effort in drawing attention to, and condemning, such recklessness.

But the public service belongs to all of us: administrators come and go. If water stops flowing, it is our wives and children who suffer. The governor and other top men are likely to have water flowing through the taps in their homes.

It is against this background that CALI appeals to the workers to return to work, get back to the negotiating table and get whatever pledge they can out of the governor and his administration.

That way they will have taken care of their interests and at the same time preserved the public interest themselves.

JAIL TERMS ORDERED FOR NINE MAITATSINE PARTICIPANTS

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 31 Jan 83 p 24

[Text]

NINE of the people who participated in last year's religious disturbances in Kaduna were on Friday sentenced to various jail terms by a Kaduna Chief Magistrate, Mr. Saifullahi Coomassie.

They include Abdu Salihu, Mohammed Sani and Salihu Baba who were ordered by the chief magistrate to serve two years each in a remand home because they were under aged.

The others are Mohammed Umar, Yahaya Umaru, Sale Abdu, Haruna Alhassan and Hamidu Musa each sentenced to two years imprisonment.

The chief magistrate recommended that the ninth person, Ibrahim Usman, 86, sentenced to three years imprisonment, be granted clemency by the state governor, because of his old age.

Earlier, all the accused persons had pleaded guilty to taking part in the riot which claimed several lives including those of an assistant commissioner of police, Mr. Karimu Yakubu, and Sergeant Victor Suleiman.

Eleven of the 20 persons, who were initially charged for the offence, were discharged for want of evidence.

In his judgment, Mr. Coomassie suggested the enactment of a law to check the practice in parts of the northern states

where parents entrusted their children to certain Islamic teachers that were of dubious character.

The magistrate expressed the hope that Governor Abubakar Rimi of Kano would appear in court to comment on allegations made by one of the accused persons that he aided the proscribed Maitatsine religious sect.

Mr. Coomassie said that he would have summoned the governor to court if he had the power.

'SUNDAY CONCORD' EDITOR FREED, REARRESTED

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 11 Feb 83 pp 1, 40

[Article by Dupe Osibeluwo]

[Text]

THE Editor of the Sunday Concord, Dele Giwa, remanded in prison on a charge of publishing classified matters without authority, was yesterday allowed bail after eight days in prison custody.

He was granted bail by Mr. Justice Fred Anyaegbunam who upheld an appeal filed by his counsel, Chief Gani Fawehinmi. The bail was granted in the sum of ₦5,000 and self recognisance.

Dele was however re-arrested in the court premises by plain clothed policemen for an undisclosed offence.

In court to watch the proceedings were delegations of NUJ from Ondo, Ogun, Oyo and Lagos States. They were more than 50.

Earlier when the court resumed hearing, the defence counsel had argued that the Federal High Court had no jurisdiction on the issue before it.

He further argued that the Federal High Court had special jurisdiction on issues specified under the act setting up the court.

The issue of official secrecy acts, he said, was not among issues the court could adjudicate upon.

Chief Fawehinmi said the Federal High Court's jurisdiction was limited by the constitution subject to an extension by an act of the National Assembly validly made.

He contended that

as long as the National Assembly has not conferred jurisdiction on the court to try offences under the Official Secret Act, the court could therefore not assume that it was part of its responsibilities.

He argued that it was the Lagos State High Court that had jurisdiction over the matter and urged the court to transfer the case.

The prosecution counsel, Federal Director for Public Prosecutions, Mr. Ben Nwazojie, however contended that as the National Assembly had made legislation on public order and safety, and the official secret act could be grouped under this. It was wrong to say that the National Assembly had not made any legislation.

"So long as it is a matter the National Assembly had power to legislate on, then jurisdiction of the court is clear", the DPP contended. Ruling was reserved for March 8.

IMPORT MEASURES MAY AFFECT PRINTING OF NEWSPAPERS

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 7 Feb 83 p 10

[Article by Francis Okoro]

[Text]

THE Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria (NPAN) has expressed concern over the nonchalant attitude on Nigeria's planning process in matters affecting the print media

The association said the attitude bordered on unpardonable lack of knowledge demonstrated by placing under licence such basic raw materials as newsprint; printing plates; printing inks; chemicals and films which

were vital to the production of newspapers

In a communique at the end of its conference in Benin last Saturday, the association said the federal government had regulatory machinery in the administration of the Approved Users Licences over these same items under which it could manage the inflow of these raw materials and the outflow of foreign exchange in respect of them

The association

expressed alarm that the present licensing requirements and the lack of early and sufficient foreign currency allocation for newsprint and other raw materials have caused complete shortage of all materials for the publication of news

It explained that as a result of this serious situation, newspapers have contracted down to 80 per cent in respect of pagination and 60 per cent in respect of circulation, adding that the measure has resulted in colossal loss of revenue to be followed by certain bankruptcies and the loss of newspaper industry to the nation.

The association declared: "The NPAN feels that in an election year, the current government measures are eminently counter productive especially as all governments and politicians seeking elections want maximum exposure to ensure that the people choose properly when voting."

TRANSIT CAMPS URGED FOR REMAINING ALIENS

Aba WEEKLY EAGLE in English 6 Feb 83 p 5

[Commentary in the column "Eagle Opinion": "Flushing Out the Illegal Aliens"]

[Text]

IT IS now obvious that with the expiration of the Federal Government's deadline for the departure of illegal aliens, hundreds of thousands of these unwelcome guests are still remaining in the country.

Reports indicate that most of the aliens resident in the states are yet to depart while some of them, anxious to avoid unnecessary unpleasantness have been converging on Lagos on the first leg of their journey back to their various countries.

With the expiration of the deadline, the Federal Government has now indicated that all aliens without valid resident permits would now be rounded up and persecuted prior to their deportation.

The Weekly Eagle agrees that Nigeria reserves the right to protect her territorial integrity and guard jealously the security of the country and her citizens.

We also endorse unequivocally the current moves by the Federal Government to protect the welfare of Nigerians who had suffered untold hardships as a result of the erstwhile free-for-all foreign policy of the nation which had resulted in acute unemployment, acute shortage of living accommodation, frightening increase in crime and a terrible decline in morals.

We endorse the current hard line policy of sending all illegal aliens packing out of the country, but regret that, as usual, the authorities had left the problem to assume alarming proportions before embarking on remedial measures.

However, now that the nation is faced with the costly exercise of flushing out recalcitrant aliens who are now attempting to thwart the country's orders, we would wish to advise that the greatest care be taken to avoid a situation which could easily create more problems than it seeks to solve.

In the first place, we think that the two-week deadline was too short a time for the aliens to uproot themselves without suffering undue hardship.

And we also see the later clarifications and amendments as little more than after-thoughts from authorities who had not done enough home work before embarking on this exercise; a situation which seems to crop up from time to time and thus gives the impression of scatter-brained implementation of half-baked ideas.

We wish to caution that in this flushing out exercise care must be taken to execute the project painlessly. The aliens and their countries of origin must never be given the slightest opportunity to accuse Nigeria of hostility or brutality.

Rather than incur added expence of this, we suggest that the remaining aliens trapped by the expiration of the inadequate deadline be rounded up and kept in transit camps until evacuated by their respective home governments.

And such transit camps must be properly planned and manned by experts in such a manner that the health and welfare of the deportees do not suffer.

Sick persons usually spend money in the search for a cure, and Nigeria like a sick person must be prepared to invest some money to cure herself of the disease known as illegal aliens.

What is more, no matter what the country does, the aliens will most certainly carry tales of brutality back home and such tales will reflect adversely on Nigerians resident in those countries.

The need for the greatest care cannot be over-emphasised. The country will just have to bend over backwards and do everything to alleviate the suffering of the aliens and thereby lessen the impact of the inevitable back lash from the current exercise.

PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO REPORTEDLY 100 TO 1

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 7 Feb 83 p 11

[Article by Yusuf Ozi Usman]

[Text]

THERE are now an average of 100 primary school pupils for each teacher in Nigeria, the Director of United Nations International Children Education Funds (UNICEF), Mr. Richard Reid, has observed.

However the director claimed that most of the teachers were untrained.

Mr. Reid was speaking at the opening of the Fifth Regional Consultation Meeting of the Network of Educational Innovation for Development in Africa (NEIDA) at Bagauda Lake Hotel in Kano last Monday.

He said that problems facing African countries apart from untrained teachers were lack of funds.

The director said this lack of funds could be a pointer to our lack of ability to re-evaluate education priorities to suit the situation.

He said African countries should bear in mind that investment in primary education could benefit us more than in any other social investment. He added that education would bring in more productivity.

Mr. Reid explained that the key element in the network of education development in Africa was

innovation.

UNICEF, he stressed, had been seeking ways of bringing the main impact and power of its innovation to bear on the foundation year of learning in member nations.

The purpose of NEIDA is to stimulate and support educational innovation-orientation towards development by promoting co-operation among African countries through regular sharing of ideas, experience and expertise.

The 19th general conference of UNESCO endorsed the establishment of NEIDA in 1976 in response to recommendations by the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Education of African member states. As at now, there are 44 African countries partaking in NEIDA activities.

At the opening ceremony of its meeting last Monday, three countries won the prizes of NESSIM HABIF for their outstanding contribution to the development of African languages.

The countries are Kenya, Zambia and Madagascar. The prizes involved 3,000 US dollars, (about 2,140 Naira), text books and other educational materials for each of the winning countries.

COUNTRY'S SECURITY SYSTEM CALLED OBSOLETE

Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 6 Feb 83 p 16

[Article by Olu Adebayo]

[Text]

THE security system of the country is too obsolete to be able to cope with any internal emergency, Senator Ibrahim Dimis of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs said in Lagos at the weekend.

The Senator told the Sunday New Nigerian that this had become a particularly dangerous situation because Nigerians were planning to destroy their own country and themselves in the process. According to Senator Dimis, there existed in the country a political institution which in co-operation with an international clique was bent on bringing down the country if things did not happen their way.

Senator Dimis referred to recent happenings in the country and said: "If the people of this country decide to put the country into chaos, no amount of security will save it."

The Senator suggested that the best way to prevent self-destruction is for all Nigerians to co-operate with one another bearing in mind that no matter what happened, this is our country. "We have no other place to run to," he said.

He also backed the suggestion that some form of continuity be maintained in the Senate in order to ensure that the president is never short of constitutional support for decisions taken at any given period.

An emergency situation could develop during the period the en-

the house was off on electioneering campaign, the Senator said. "The trouble makers will just seize on that and kill the country." To effect this, he suggested that the Senate be grouped in three with a gap of about 6 months each. While a third is off for electioneering, he said "there is always the two thirds required for effective legislation in the house."

Speaking on Labour unrests in the country, Senator Dimis who is also a member of the Senate Committee on Labour, conceded that most of the demands by workers were genuine. He mentioned the case of civil servants and teachers who he said were taking the most sacrifices but yet always come under the worst criticisms.

"What do you expect a teacher with a wife, children and other responsibilities to do without his salary for five months?" he enquired. He however appealed to employees in the essential services to stop violating the law which forbids them from going on strike. "This is very unpatriotic," he said.

Senator Dimis disagreed with the suggestion that 1983 would decide the fate of the country. According to him "Nigeria has survived since the end of the civil war." The nation, he said, was lucky to have someone like Aihaji Shehu Shagari as President in this early stage of our democracy.

GENERAL OBASANJO SUES OVER BOOK ON CIVIL WAR

Calabar THE NIGERIAN CALL in English 9-10 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

THE recent influx into the market of books published on the Nigerian Civil War has produced its first major reaction from an actor in that national tragedy.

Yesterday at an Ibadan high court, Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo instituted a libel action against the author of one of the Nigerian Civil War books.

The former head of state is suing Major Adewale Ademoyega, the author of *Why We Struck* for N1 million.

Joined in the suit is Evans Brothers Limited, publishers of

the book.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Gen. Obasanjo is claiming the amount as general damages for alleged libel contained in the book.

The former head of state is also seeking perpetual injunction to restrain the defendants and their agents from "further publication of the said or similar libel."

No date has yet been fixed for hearing the suit.

Major Ademoyega is usually described in Nigerian political circles as one of the "five majors" who

carried out the 1966 coup d'etat which toppled the Federal Government of Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

He is the only survivor of the five and his book, published in early 1982, attracted a lot of public interest.

General Obasanjo, before he became head of state in 1976, was general officer commanding 3rd Marine Commandoes (later 3 Division, Nigerian Army); Federal commissioner for works, and chief of staff, supreme headquarters.

CSO: 3400/773

LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL CENTERS SAID UNAVAILABLE IN SIX STATES

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 7 feb 83 p 20

[Text]

SIX states in the country have not made land available to the Federal Government for the building of industrial development centres, the Minister of State for Industries, Dr. Ishmael Igbani has said.

Dr. Igbani told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), that the states were Lagos, Anambra, Niger, Plateau, Benue and Gongola.

He said that the centres were meant to offer advice to industrialists and provide information on investment.

He urged the affected states to co-operate with the Federal Government by making land available.

Dr. Igbani said that an estimated 28 million Naira had been given out as loans to small-scale industries since the introduction of the loan scheme and that of this amount, 7.4 million Naira was given out last year.

He said that work had started on the 370 million Naira Shanti Sugar Project in Niger State which would produce 100,000 tonnes of sugar annually when in full production.

Dr. Igbani listed other projects embarked upon by his ministry. They included fertilizer project in Onne valued at 500 million Naira Salt Company at Oghareki in Bendel and in Otta in Ogun, the Electric Meter Project in Zaria and the Machine Tools Project at Osogbo.


CSO: 3400/779

INDUSTRIES CLAIM MEASURES CUT RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY

Cosmetics Firm Runs Out

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 15 Feb 83 p 20

[Text]

PATERSON  **CHONIS** Industries produces more than 18 products from soaps to cosmetics including Imperial Leather toilet soap, Elephant washing powder and Venus beauty cream. The P.Z. team including the managing director, P. Gioures, general manager (Marketing), Martin Akpoveta; and the general manager (Sales) N. Kosmas told the Consumer Affairs that the P.Z. Industries was still in production although the new fiscal measures have created some bottlenecks. Mr. Gioures added that if the raw materials position does not improve by the end of February, he might be forced to close down during the month of March.

"Because some other

manufacturers are already experiencing difficulties in production, there is more than normal demand for our products. We do not want to sell all products to the same dealer who wants to cash in on the situation now to maximise profits. We want to maintain sales at the same level in all parts of the country. As far as we are concerned, we have not increased our prices beyond what was approved late last year by the Prices, Productivity and Incomes Board (PPIB)".

P.Z. Industries also depends on other local manufacturers for packaging. "For example, when we were short of packaging for Venus, I refused to sell my creams in naked jars without the appropriate packaging and labels."

Lever Brothers Cuts Production

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 15 Feb 83 p 20

[Text]

AT Lever Brothers Nigeria Limited, makers of Omo; Sunlight; Astral cream; Lux toilet soap and margarine, the story was very much the same. The marketing director, Mr. Tunji Alatise explained that the company was not producing to full capacity due to

difficulties in bringing in as much raw material as necessary. "It is true that we manage to bring in some raw materials but it is not enough to stop gaps that make a shortage obvious on the market".

Mr. Alatisse further explained that the amount needed is quite sizeable to the extent that foreign suppliers have refused to extend further credit to the company.

Asked whether the new measures introduced in the New Year was solely responsible for the shortage of Omo. Mr. Alatisse explained that the rate at which stock of raw materials was converted into finished product was faster than the rate at which raw materials came in.

"We are still manufacturing in Lagos and Aba factories. We still supply the markets but not as full as before. All we do is to ensure that our distributors get a fair percentage of our products.

On higher prices, Mr. Alatisse explained that a lot of sharp practices take place when demand outstrips supply. Consumers on the other hand panic buys in such situation.

"A good part of the materials needed in Production are chemicals. We cannot find local substitutes until the petro-chemical industry takes off. For example Caustic Soda production is too expensive for us to go into. We have to depend on other manufacturers for raw materials.

Food Specialties

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 15 Feb 83 pp 20-21

[Text]

AT Food Specialties, the managing director, Mr. Georges Witchi said the New Year measures coupled with after effect of fiscal measures announced last April was creating production difficulties. Most raw materials utilised by the company both at Ilupeju and Agbara factories have now come under licence. "In order to get the factory working full capacity, we need about 80 million in foreign exchange annually for the Milk products". Of the 1,653 workers on the company's pay roll, 800 are factory workers. "Declaring staff redundant is the last thing I want to do but if the licence approved for me is too small then I will have to review my staff position. So far, only casual labour have been laid off.

"We have already applied for licence. And until we get a licence we cannot apply for foreign exchange and we do not know how much will be approved for us. Suppliers will not supply without confirmed letters of credit.

Apart from major outlets like C.F.A.O. and S.C.O.A. Food Specialties have about 120 big Nigerian distributors across the nation.

All these large companies depend on manufactured products for sale to the public. "I think the

government should have sampled the opinion of big manufacturers before reaching a decision on these measures".

"We are trying to spread our stock for as long as it lasts". The allocation we are making to distributors is based on percentage of our sales for the same period last year.

On local substitutes, Mr. Witchi explained that his research team was already exploring the possibility of switching to some local products like maize.

Lipton Tea Closes Factory

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 15 Feb 83 p 21

[Text]

RAW tea needed for local tea production by Lipton of Nigeria come from such far flung places as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and some nearby African countries like Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania. Recently, tea farms were developed at Mambila Hills, in Gongola State. All the tea grown at Mambila — can only feed the Lipton Mills for one week. Not only that, at least 5—12 types of tea is needed — for blending into various flavours which we know. Tea which is taken for granted in many homes has now become a luxury.

Already suffering from last April's measures, Lipton of Nigeria factory at Apapa finally closed down production on December 16 even before the January measures for lack of raw material. Bongo Coffee also produced by Lipton was also affected because Chicory, an essential ingredient, also came

under the hammer.

Lipton's deputy managing director, Albert Mangold said: "As a stop gap, we had to buy some quantity quickly from London at a higher price to blend the Mambila consignment just received."

During the interview, Mr. Mangold said the mills was due to re-open yesterday.

Stocks of Most Commodities

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 15 Feb 83 pp 20-21

[Text]

SINCE the 'New Year Package' in which 21 more items were either banned or placed under licence, Nigerian manufacturers are grappling to keep their machines running.

Nine months previous last April, the economic stabilization measures were taken to bring the nation's spending in tune with her dwindling foreign reserve. Poor oil revenue, foreign exchange loss through massive imports in a time of global economic recession particularly

sharpened the bite of this last measure.

Although import restrictions and austerity measures have become a feature of the nation's economy since General Murtala Mohammed's regime, drastic cut back on national budget compared to the boom

budget of Gowon's era, have really thrown Nigerian industries off balance.

More than 92 per cent of Nigeria's industrial sector are dependent on overseas source for raw materials. There are no local substitutes. And the latest austerity measures have placed all

raw materials under licence thus aggravating the stock position of most industries. Some manufacturers caught in the clog of the economic situation have finally run out of raw materials without which no production can take place. Some factories now maintain skeleton staff, and ration manufactured goods to dealers, while application for licence is being processed. Unfortunately, the process is slow.

Between application, the granting of licence and confirming letter of credit to remit money to overseas suppliers, gaps are created which reflect on the market.

In the last three weeks, after the additional measures announced by President Shagari on January 1,

prices of most commodities have experienced a sharp rise on the markets. Affected items ranging from teabags; soaps; detergents; cosmetics; toothpaste; vegetable oil to infant milk formula have suddenly become scarce. Where available, retailers are asking astronomical prices for them.

In some supermarkets around Lagos, these essentials are sold on ration.

To assess the situation, the Consumer Affairs visited Paterson Zochonis Industries (P.Z) Limited, P.Z Nigeria Limited; Food Specialities Nigeria Limited, Lever Brothers Nigeria Limited and Lipton of Nigeria Limited. Between them, these manufacturers control more than 75 per cent

of the small but essential items whose absence makes an immediate impact on the market. They are responsible for a sizeable portion of the labour force in the industrial sector. All casual hands have been laid off. Employees who leave are not replaced and in most serious cases, the entire production force are told to take a french holiday until further notice.

Maggi cubes, Lactogen, Nan Infant formula, Nido and Cerelac are the worst hit. Food Specialities' recommended retail price are ignored by market women. For example 400gms NIDO which should sell for N1.33 now sells for N2.50 while 450grms pack on Nan Infant formula has gone up.

CSO: 3400/818

HARD TIMES PREDICTED FOR SHIPPERS

Calabar THE NIGERIAN CALL in English 9-10 Feb 83 p 14

[Text]

GLOOMY prospects for the shipping industry this year are being expressed by shipping officials in the country following the additional peg on imports in the 1983 Appropriation Bill.

Speaking in his office in Port Harcourt recently the general manager of the Silver Eagle Shipping Agencies, Mr. Patrick J. Udo, says that 1983 may be another lean year for shippers and shipping companies, adding that despite the reduction of compulsory advance deposits on imports to 10%, a renewal of the Approved Users Scheme and other measures introduced through the 1982 Economic Stabilisation (temporary provisions) Act, the ban on many imported items will adversely affect the volume of shipping for 1983.

Mr. Udo, however,

noted that the measures were aimed at bailing out over balance of payments from chronic deficits, and doubted whether the measures had affected the capital movements comparable to its vibrations on international trade. He called on shippers to put their priorities in order and seek to import only those items that are fiscally approved.

Mr. Udo, who also controls the Calabar operations of his company, had expressed satisfaction at the management of the Ports at Calabar. He then called on other shipping companies to make good use of the berthing and warehousing facilities here, adding that Calabar Port is hub of shipping in the eighties, and that importers from the North may enjoy advantage of quick

delivery of their merchandise, when inadequate infrastructures including roads, have been created to link Calabar, effortlessly, with the North. Commenting further on the economy, he was also of the view that export credits from friendly countries may help stimulate the growth of imports for 1983.

Commenting on the economy for 1983, he said the trend would favour import substitution industries, although some industries would still process imported raw materials with local value added to achieve the economic goals of the country for the year.

Mr. Udo finally praised the Federal

Government for the timely measures taken to revamp the economy, adding that despite the sacrifices involved, the exercise

had been responsible more towards stabilising the economy and

launching the country on the path of economic self-reliance.

On the closure of private jetties Mr. Udo could not comment, but had the feeling that the Federal Government would see reason sooner or later to permit the transfer of those goods trapped in the N.P.A. for possible collection by the rightful owners, with authenticated customs documents.

CSO: 3400/773

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STEEL TRANSPORT COSTS DETAILED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 3 Feb 83 p 16

[Article by Mike Opara and Margaret Ichull]

[Text]

THE Federal Government will be spending more than six million Naira every month on the transportation of billets from the Delta Steel Plant at Aladja near Warri to the three rolling mills in Jos, Katsina and Osogbo by road.

Disclosing this to the New Nigerian, the Minister of Steel Development, Malam Mammen Ali Makele explained that conveying such heavy cargo to the mills was a very expensive undertaking.

Malam Makele suggested that conveying the cargo by rail would be cheaper and less hazardous.

He explained, however, that the use of road transport would continue as a short-term measure to keep the mills busy after they must have been commissioned pending the construction of rail lines, sidings and the procurement of the right type of waggon for transporting billets by the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC).

"This is why an inter-ministerial task force has been established to co-ordinate transportation issues," he said, adding that a

scrap-based mini-steel plant was being planned for the Katsina Rolling Mill to reduce its transportation problems.

On the involvement of Nigerian personnel in the steel industry, Malam Makele said that the steel plants would provide employment for 30,000 Nigerians when fully operational and at the completion of other related projects would take on more than 100,000 workers.

He said that specialised "on-the-job" and "in-plant" training scheme in various steel plant operations was being executed by his ministry to enable Nigerian employees to take over all aspects of the industry as soon as they acquired the knowledge.

On the foreseen high price of locally produced steel to the Nigerian consumer, the minister said that the price was seen to be higher than that of imported ones because the nation was merely being used as a dumping ground by industrialised countries which sold at prices lower than the production costs in order to keep their populations working.

He said the price would improve considerably when the industry started to enjoy the economies of large-scale production.

CSO: 3400/779

CAMEROONIAN, OTHER TRAWLERS SAID 'PIRATING' FISH

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 14 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Tari Febabor]

[Text] FISHING trawlers from neighbouring Cameroun Republic and other foreign countries have turned Nigerian territorial waters into a "free fishing area".

Armed with fish trawlers more superior in size, engine power, fishing aids and other operational skills, these "Sea Pirates" constitute a terror to Nigerian fishing companies in the coastal areas.

Making this revelation in Port Harcourt at the week-end, the general manager of an indigenous fishing company, the Coast Line Fishing Company Limited, Mr. Justus Ibaibuo, said if these foreign trawlers continued at that rate, they might deplete the sea contents for his company and they would be forced out of business.

Mr. Ibaibuo expressed fear that the invasion by fishermen might even be for other reasons including military survey for possible attack in the future.

Complaints

Before the advent of the Cameroun fishermen to our waters, he claimed that the "greatest offenders were Italian and Greek trawlers".

He gave the name of the Camerounian trawlers as "Duala 211".

Asked if his company had made any formal representation to the government on the issues, the general manager replied that "we have made no formal complaint, but we have made informal complaints to the naval authorities in Port Harcourt on several occasions"

"The menace of the foreign trawlers does not end in the violation of the Nigerian territorial waters, they fish in clusters of up to 16 to 20".

CSO: 3400/818

BRIEFS

NET OFFICIALS' MURDER CHARGE--Twenty officials of the Nigerian External Telecommunications (NET) including a journalist who is the company's chief public relations officer, and a federal fire service chief, have appeared before a Lagos Chief Magistrate's court on a one-count charge of murder. They are alleged to have set fire to the NECOM HOUSE headquarters of NET, in Lagos, on January 24, 1983, resulting in the deaths of a one-time editor of the New Nigerian Newspapers Limited, Malam Aminu Abdullahi, and a woman, Mrs. Comfort Adebiyi. Those charged are: Festus Harrison Oluwonde Akindele, Dr Maurice Ebong, David Olaosebikan Williams, Yinusa Raji, Michael Nwanwubar and Babatunde Onalaja. Others include M. Ogunmeyer Joshua Alani Soetan, Alhaji Adamu Akokhia, Christopher Adeoye Tugbobo, Saidu Garba, Edet Ebiene Antari and Gerald Antai. The rest are Daniel Ike Anurukem, Nathaniel Oluwole, Clement Iruobe, Chuke Obi Arah (Jnr), Bayo Olowokere, Daniel Geh (alias "Ngo") and Felix Nwaonu. The prosecution alleged that the offence was committed contrary to section 319 cap 31, volume 11 of the Laws of Lagos State. No plea was taken from any of the accused, but remanded in prison custody until February 21, when they would appear in court again. [Text] [Aba WEEKLY REVIEW in English 6 Feb 83 p 16]

CONSUMER PRICES UP--PRICES of consumer goods have sharply risen. A research carried out by Business Times in some selected wholesale and retail markets in Lagos metropolis showed the rise in prices to be within the range of 35 per cent and 100 per cent in some cases. Reports from Maiduguri; Kano; Aba; Sokoto Onitsha; Benin and other urban areas confirm the trend in prices. The retail price of a tin of 100 cubes of maggi which was formerly N6.00 has gone up to N7.00; a tin of cooking oil-vegetable groundnut rose from N16 to N20; and a packet of Lipton of 25 teabags which was sold for 50k now costs N1.00. The price of a medium sized tin of peak powdered whole milk (net weight 900 grams) which was sold for N3 is now N4. [Godfrey Umesì] [Excerpt] [Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 7 Feb 83 p 1]

HUNGER DEATHS AMONG ALIENS--FOUR Ghanaians have died of hunger and one drowned while awaiting evacuation at the Apapa Wharf in compliance with the Federal Government's quit order on illegal immigrants. Our reporter who visited the Ghanaians at the various sheds there on Sunday said the aliens were reported to have died of "extreme hunger and thirst." Many of them were in bad state of health due to over-crowding and shortage of medical facilities. Their plight was further worsened by the activities of some Nigerians who allegedly

paraded themselves as agents of the Nigerian National Shipping Line (NNSL) and duped the Ghanaians of thousands of Naira. The immigrants alleged that the 'agents' asked them to pay 50 Naira each for ships which the Nigerian government would provide for them. One Ghanaian Mr. Babas Alhassan who came from Kaduna to the quays as a result of the quit order, said they were compelled to pay 5,000 Naira for a trailer-load of passengers. [Folu Adela] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 1 Feb 83 p 16]

FRAUDULENT PAY VOUCHERS--THE Rivers State Government has suspended indefinitely payment of salaries and wages to employees in its public service. A senior official of the state government told the New Nigerian that the suspension order was sequel to alleged irregularities discovered in vouchers prepared for the payment of salaries and wages for the month of January, this year. My source said that before the suspension order came into effect, cheques had already been drawn for the payment of salaries of civil servants in the various state ministries and parastatals of the state. Investigations by a team of auditors has begun in a bid to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the alleged fraudulent preparation of the vouchers, the source further revealed. The state government, the source added, was ready to take severe measures against anybody found to be connected with the fraud. It was suspected that the alleged fraud in the preparation of vouchers might have been going on for some time because the state government was believed to have no authentic figure of the number of its civil servants. This was said to be as a result of the indiscriminate employment particularly in the senior cadre into the state public service the source further revealed. Last year, the state government introduced a new system of "nominal roll" payment of salaries and wages in its civil service with a view to curbing fraudulent activities which was rampant in the state civil service. [Friday O. Paul] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 4 Feb 83 p 16]

CUSTOMS TASK FORCE DISSOLVED--THE Presidential Task Force established by the Federal Government on Customs Department in the country has been dissolved. A competent source in Kano told the New Nigerian that a directive disbanding the presidential task force unit was issued on January 2, this year. According to my source no reason was given for dissolving the task force and neither was it anticipated that the unit would be revived again. The Presidential Task Force on Customs was established sometime in 1981 with a view to ensuring that all the stringent measures aimed at reducing smuggling through the various ports, and boarder posts in the country were complied with. [Abdulhamid Babatunde] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 4 Feb 83 p 24]

MP'S WIVES KEEP ALIENS--BARELY four days to the end of the two-weeks grace given by the Federal Government to illegal aliens in the country, many of them still live and work as house-helps at the "1004", official residence of the National Assembly members. Daily Times was told that the household workers were "indispensable" to the wives of the lawmakers. Sources disclosed that some of the legislators' wives who acquired the services of the illegal aliens were feeling reluctant to part with them because they would find it "difficult" to cope with domestic work. They alleged that even though the directives given by the Federal Government were laudable, the problems they would cause to millions of housewives in the country were not put into

consideration. Some of the housewives who spoke to the Daily Times said they were still keeping their house-helpers with the hope that their husbands "could prevail on the government" to amend the directives. An amendment proposed by some of them was that housewives in the country should be allowed to acquire passport and work permits for their "trusted" maids. However, most of the male aliens who work as cleaners at the residential complex had ceased to report for work. Some of their colleagues told the Daily Times that they stopped coming to work soon after the announcement by the Federal Government. "Many of them have moved their property from the "1004" buildings to nearby Maroko pending their journey back home," the Daily Times was further informed. [Olu Odihiri] [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 29 Jan 83 p 1]

NPN CRITICIZED OVER MINORITIES--THE Nigeria Voice, a Benue State Government-owned NPN mouthpiece which claims to tell the truth as it is, has at last cried out loud for the minorities. It has criticised the NPN's zoning policy as negating the spirit of the Gboko '83 campaign launch, pointing out that from the way political patronage has so far been shared it was clear that there was "a design for systematic exclusion of minorities." In its front page editorial comment of January 29, the paper reminded the party of the urgent need to base "the strength and goals of the NPN on percentage vote and relative patronage from the Federal Government." The paper referred to chapter 11, section 14 (3) of the constitution and called "for action not verbal declarations." The section states in part that "there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic or sectional groups." [Text] [Kano SUNDAY TRIUMPH in English 6 Feb 83 p 1]

'STAR' EDITOR TAKEN AWAY--THE Editor of the 'Weekly Star', Chief Obi Okudo was yesterday whisked away from his office by men of the Criminal Investigation Department. The men, three in number who were dressed in plain clothes took off the Editor in connection with a Weekly Star publication of January 2, 1983, titled '1983. Nigeria's Year of Destiny' and written by Mr. Egbuna Akpa. The three policemen are suspected to have come from the force headquarters, Alagbon close, Lagos. It will be recalled that the Ogun State Governor, Chief Bisi Onabanjo as well as the Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria (NPAN) had recently spoken against the incessant harassment of journalists by the police. [Text] [Enugu DAILY STAR in English 10 Feb 82 p 16]

OIL FOR INDIA, SWEDEN--During President Shagari's visit to India, Nigeria is said to have offered to supply oil and liquified natural gas to India on a long-term basis on terms to be settled. Apparently the Indian Government is considering the offer in terms of its needs and whether it helps India's balance of payments. The prices must be competitive because India now imports all its oil from the Middle East and Russia against firm contracts arranged on a Government-to-Government basis. Nigeria is also said to have offered to supply rubber and zinc to India. A three-year trade agreement was signed between the two countries to balance bilateral trade. A joint committee will be set up to implement the agreement, which will be automatically renewed. The agreement provides for mutual most-favoured-nation status on imports, exports, customs duties and taxes. The joint committee will compare trade statistics on a yearly basis to reduce the imbalance and suggest ways to expand economic co-operation. The possibility of selling oil to Sweden was discussed with

Sweden's Minister for Energy during the recent visit to Nigeria of the Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. Nigeria would, presumably, have to offer a very competitive price considering that Sweden is so close to North Sea oil, which is of comparable quality to Nigerian crude; unless such purchases were, perhaps, to be handled by Sweden's aid budget. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3418, 14 Feb 83 p 445]

TRADE RESTRICTIONS CLARIFIED--An Extraordinary issue of the Nigerian Official Gazette has tidied up the restrictions on imports, clarifying the goods which now require import licences: 231 categories compared with the 253 on the list published on January 1. It also sets out the amended terms on which some goods subject to the new conditions, laid down in the Economic Stabilisation (Temporary Provisions) (Import Prohibition) Order 1983, may be allowed into the country. For imports by sea or land, if the goods are shown by the relevant bill of lading to have been shipped, or transported, before January 1 this year, or are covered by established irrevocable letter of credit opened in Nigeria on or before December 31, 1982, and they arrive within Nigerian territorial waters, or at a customs post, before March 30 they will be allowed into the country. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3418, 14 Feb 83 p 435]

CEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BENIN--Lagos, 2 Mar (NAN)--Delivery of cement from Onigbolo Cement Company in the Republic of Benin to Nigeria will commence by the end of this month. This indication is contained in a communique released in Lagos yesterday of a meeting between the minister of industries, Alhaji Akanbi Oniyangi, and a delegation from Benin led by its minister of trade, Col Barthelomey Ohouens. According to the communique, the Nigerian National Supply Company would handle the marketing of the cement in Nigeria. It added that the federal government would facilitate the issuance of the import license and foreign exchange for importing the cement as well as ensure the easy transfer of the proceeds to the Republic of Benin. The communique also stated that 60 percent of the output of the cement company would be sold in Nigeria, adding that the company and Nigerian distributors would work out conditions of sales with a view to entering into commercial contract. The Onigbolo Cement Company is a joint venture between the two countries. [AB021117 Lagos NAN in English 1100 GMT 3 Feb 83]

PLATEAU STATE EMPLOYEES STRIKE--Jos, 1 Mar (NAN)--Civil servants in Plateau today began an indefinite strike action in protest against the non-payment of outstanding salaries owed them and implementation of the new income policy guidelines. A correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) who visited the state government secretariat reported that thousands of workers were locked out of their offices to prevent any possible damage to government property and anti-riot policemen were seen guarding the secretariat while workers stood in groups discussing their plight. [Excerpt] [AB011308 Lagos NAN in English 1250 GMT 1 Mar 83]

CSO: 3400/870

REASONS FOR DIOUF'S EXPECTED VICTORY IN ELECTIONS NOTED

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3419, 21 Feb 83 pp 460, 461

[Text]

Most media coverage, particularly in opposition circles, has concentrated on various supports for the five Presidential candidates. The five finally registered — after much dealing, counter-dealing, and apparent mistakes over registration dates — are Abdou Diouf, Mamadou Dia, Majhmout Diop, Oumar Wone and Abdoulaye Wade.

Abdou Diouf is head and shoulders above the others in his chances. First, he has been lucky. The rains have been good since he took power on January 1, 1981. Second, he is personally untainted by any whiff of corruption or scandal. Third, he has the public support of the powerful *Mouride* Moslem brotherhood (this is significant in that he is a member of the *Tidjane* brotherhood). Fourth, he is seen to have been personally responsible for the wiping out of peasant debts in 1981, the dismantling of the unpopular and corrupt groundnut agency *ONCAD* and the institution of multipartyism itself. Finally, he has the overwhelming advantage of incumbency. In terms of media control, administrative mechanism, funds and experience, the *PS* is *The Party*.

Abdoulaye Wade, the lawyer and Secretary General of the *Parti Démocratique Sénégalais (PDS)*, has had an unfortunate couple of years. In late 1981 there was the "Libyan arms affair", when a dozen members of his party were implicated in the introduction of firearms into the country. The arms were never actually found, but the mud stuck, and was added to in 1982 when *PDS* Swiss bank accounts were prominently "revealed".

Maitre Wade has seen the parliamentary representation of his party fall from 14 to 8 seats. Most defectors have gone over to the

PS, in blazes of official publicity citing "undemocratic intensions of the *PDS* leadership" as reasons for leaving. The *PS* controls over 90 of the current 100 seats at the National Assembly.

The next best known candidate, veteran politician Mamadou Dia, is the only (minor) threat to Abdou Diouf. Dia, leader of the *Mouvement Démocrates que du Peuple*, is supported in his candidature by three left wing parties, the *Ligue Démocratique* led by Babacar Sane, Hamadou Sarr's *Ligue Communiste des Travailleurs* and the *Union Démocratique du Peuple* led by Hamadine Racine Guissé.

Dia, a former Head of Government under Senghor, was jailed in 1962 following a power struggle with the Poet-President. He was released in 1975, and his period in jail has given him something of a martyr's aura. He is likely to attract the "anti-establishment" vote despite his seventy years, failing eyesight and chequered history.

The less well known "anti-establishment" candidates are Oumar Wone and Majhmout Diop, respectively leaders of the *Parti du Peuple Sénégalais* and the *Parti Africain de l'Indépendance*. These are both leftist parties, though the latter bases its platform more on anti neo-colonialism and is much older.

The notable absentee from the Presidential list is Cheikh Anta Diop, the noted historian and leader of the *Rassemblement National Démocratique*. He would have been a serious worry for Diouf, and his absence has led to suspicions of a deal with the *PS*. Like other important questions, this can only be confirmed after the results have been forgotten and the new Government formed.

INTERIOR MINISTRY REPORTS LEGISLATION ELECTION RESULTS

AB012240 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The following communique issued by the ministry of interior gives the results of the legislative elections and the distribution of seats as well as the percentage obtained by each party concerned.

Valid votes: 8,087,441

The Socialist Party (PS), 865,107;

The Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS), 151,970;

The African Independence Party (PAI), 5,146;

The National Democratic Rally (RND), 28,520;

The Popular Democratic Movement (MDP), 12,447;

The Democratic League-Movement for the Labor Party (LD-MPT), 12,204;

The Party for Independence and Labor (PIT), 5,929;

The Senegalese People's Party (PPS), 2,128;

The percentages are as follows:

--the PS, 79.92 percent;

--the PDS, 13.98 percent;

--the PAI, 0.47 percent;

--the RND, 0.66 percent;

--the Revolutionary Movement for the New Democracy, 1.14 percent;

--the LD-MPT, 1.12 percent;

--the PIT, 0.55 percent;

--the PPS, 0.20 percent.

CSO: 3419/584

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT PRAISES 'SMOOTH' ELECTIONS--The head of state this morning presided over the meeting of the Council of Ministers. In his communication to the council, the president of the republic first referred to the smooth electoral campaign and to last Sunday's presidential and legislative elections. In this connection the head of state expressed satisfaction over the serene and clear conditions in which the electoral campaign and the 27 February elections took place. He also expressed satisfaction over the maturity of the Senegalese people. Thanks to this maturity, it was possible to smoothly carry out this important electoral exercise which is important for the future of Senegal. The head of state also sent (?congratulations) to the ministries concerned for the smooth organization of the electoral campaign and the 27 February polling exercise. [Excerpt] [AB012127 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 1 Mar 83]

RULING ON IDENTITY CARDS PROTESTED--Dakar, 26 Feb (AFP)--The opposition "National Democratic Rally" [RND] has called for the cancellation of a circular stating that it would not be necessary for voters to present identity cards during the forthcoming presidential and legislative elections throughout Senegal on Sunday. At a press conference presided over by Cheikh Anta Diop, the party's leader, the RND's Judiciary Commission said that this decision by the Senegalese interior minister was contrary to the terms of the 1982 law which demands the presentation of an identity card to the president of the polling station in all areas with at least 5,000 inhabitants. To the RND, the application of the interior minister's circular will "only cast a slur on the sincere and democratic nature of the 27 February elections," and open the way to fraud since voters' cards were distributed to people who are not entitled to them. The only way to prevent these people from fraudulently using these cards is to ask them to produce identity cards, the RND adds, stressing that the future of democracy in Senegal and in Africa as a whole is at stake. [Text] [AB261410 Paris AFP in French 1112 GMT 26 Feb 83]

CSO: 3419/574

INDIA OFFERS TO TRAIN NAVAL OFFICERS

Victoria NATION in English 9 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] **YOUTH and Defence Minister Ogilvy Berlouis returned home on Monday night from a week's visit to India, during which he delivered a message from President Albert René to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.**

Heading a three-man military delegation, Mr. Berlouis had talks with his Indian counterpart, Defence Minister R. Venkataraman and visited several military establishments and installations.

India invited Seychelles to send as many cadet officers as it wished for naval training. Mr. Berlouis said yesterday.

The Minister was especially impressed by a visit last Friday to the headquarters of the Southern Naval Command in Cochin which is also the Indian Navy's largest base. It also includes the naval academy Seychellois officers have been invited to attend.

Mr. Berlouis said that the

training facilities there were very modern and that the academy was already training cadet officers from several other developing countries.

The visit to the Southern Naval Command H.Q. also included talks with the admiral in charge and a cruise around the base.

Seychelles and India also agreed to exchange friendly visits between naval ships.

An interesting aside for Minister Berlouis was a visit to the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) in New Delhi.

The NSIC was set up in 1955 by the Indian Government to aid, counsel, finance, protect and promote the interests of small industries. It also trains people from other developing countries in setting up and running small industries.

On his way home, Mr. Berlouis transited through Mauritius where he met Finance Minister Paul Bèrenger and

Foreign Affairs, Tourism and Immigration Minister Jean-Claude de l'Estrac.

The Ministers discussed Indian Ocean issues that are expected to be raised at the forthcoming Non-aligned Summit in New Delhi.

With Minister Berlouis on his trip were Majors Rolly Marie and Macdonald Maren-go of the Defence Forces Council, and Mr. Louis Gopal, General Manager of The Seychelles National Printing Company (SNPC) who attended to business of his own.

CSO: 3400/817

POLITICAL FUTURE OF JUSU-SHERIFF DISCUSSED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English No 3, 2 Feb 83 pp 2-4

[Text]

The political future of finance minister **Salia Jusu-Sheriff** is the subject of much discussion in Freetown. President **Stake Stevens** has not recently alluded publicly to the possibility of his relinquishing the presidency. But privately there is little doubt that he wishes to do so, providing the circumstances are opportune. Since his appointment last autumn as finance minister (AC Vol 23 No 21), Jusu-Sheriff has consolidated his position within the cabinet and confirmed the fears of potentates in the ruling *All Peoples' Congress* (APC) that as a southerner from the Mende tribe, he would move to eclipse the presidential chances of the northern, largely Temne-dominated clique which has dominated the APC since its formation in the mid-1960s.

The northern political élite has thus increased its support for first vice-president **Sorie Koroma**. Despite his fragile health following a car accident a few years ago, he is regarded as the leading representative for Temne interests. The consolidation behind Koroma coincides with the almost certain demise from active politics of the second vice-president, **Christian Kamara-Taylor**, whose health continues to deteriorate after a stroke following last year's general elections (AC Vol 23 No 4). Half Creole, half Limba, Kamara-Taylor represented those politically active Creoles who had hoped for a significant role in government in post-Stevens politics.

With Jusu-Sheriff taking a prominent position in the cabinet, some of the former officials of the now defunct *Sierra Leone Peoples' Party* (SLPP), of which Jusu-Sheriff was leader, have returned to Sierra Leone from exile. (Not that the political climate has changed enough for politically active exiles, such as **John Karefa-Smart**, **Tinga Seissy**, **S.B. Daramy** and **Hamid Taqi** to return).

Notable among these recent returnees is Peter Louis Tucker, who retired last October as chief executive of Britain's *Commission for Racial Equality*. Aged 55, Tucker is a longstanding personal friend of Jusu-Sheriff, and a Mende. Before leaving Sierra Leone in 1968 he had been "Establishment" secretary, secretary to the prime minister and head of the civil service, as well as acting briefly as secretary to Brig. Juxton-Smith's short-lived *National Reformation Council*. His recent lengthy audience with Stevens has prompted speculation that Jusu-Sheriff wants to bring him back to a key government position. That in turn has further galvanised the more unscrupulous APC potentates who perceive a threat of increasing Mende competition.

Jusu-Sheriff's distant prize

Clearly Jusu-Sheriff stands to gain a lot if he can oversee even a marginal economic improvement. At present there is an acute shortage of domestic fuels and petrol (which costs L10 per gallon for private cars) and basic foodstuffs, most importantly rice. (The rumour about a large consignment of cheap oil from Iran has not materialised). The APC's administrative fund, essential for elections, appears to be dry, and the party's Lebanese, Afro-Lebanese and Indian benefactors are in many cases now shying from committing themselves financially to the present government. There is therefore something of a vacuum within the APC which could be to Jusu-Sheriff's advantage.

In any event it is most unlikely that the bye-elections resulting from electoral petitions brought against some MPs following last year's general elections will be held until all the petitions (about 20) have been heard and judged upon. That may take up to 12 months. Another reason for not precipitating more political infighting after the widespread and largely APC-engineered violence of the general election, is the continued tension in the districts of Pujehun and Tonkolili and in parts of Freetown.

In the context of food shortages, popular resentment of the APC, growing popular dissatisfaction with the overriding prominence of some Afro-Lebanese, notably **Jamil Said Mohammed**, and the increasing chances of serious Temne versus Mende rivalry, the make-up of the security services is crucial. For practical purposes the army, comprising about 1,500 combat troops, is of secondary importance not least because it has very little ammunition. The key is the State Security Division (SSD), formerly known as the Internal Security Unit (ISU).

From its inception there were very few Mende in the ISU. The great majority of recruits appear to have been Temne, brought in by Koroma, from the smaller

northern Limba and Susu tribes, brought in by Stevens and Kamara-Taylor, and to a lesser extent Creoles, the latter due to Kamara-Taylor. Since the Temne comprise the bulk of the present day SSD, a resurgence of Mende political ambition, encouraged by Jusu-Sheriff, holds potentially violent prospects. The underpinning by the SSD of APC electoral thug-gery is well-documented.

Even within the APC, especially while presidential succession battle lines are being formed, tribal allegiances of SSD agents are marked. Stevens appears to have sanctioned the formation and training of a new élite presidential guard (to be examined in a forthcoming issue). The building of separate "bases" by Stevens, Koroma and Kamara-Taylor is noticeable.

In the short-term there is little prospect of economic improvement. Although Jusu-Sheriff has obtained increased control over the finance ministry, his room for fiscal manoeuvre remains negligible. It will be recalled that last December a dual exchange rate system was introduced with an "official rate" for essential imports (to be supervised by the *Bank of Sierra Leone*) and a "commercial rate", based on the bi-weekly tender of foreign exchange to local bidders, for other imports. The object was to halt the vicious circle of black-marketeering and the wholesale smuggling of gold, diamonds and agricultural produce to neighbouring Liberia in return for payment in US dollars. In theory the tender system leads to higher prices to local producers and a commensurate decline in smuggling. It would also lead to a *de facto* devaluation, with the more realistic exchange rate attracting foreign exchange from the black market into the domestic banks. Last year an almost identical system was introduced in Uganda, partly as a result of IMF advice — a point not missed by Jusu-Sheriff in his effort to negotiate for IMF funds. It was probably no coincidence that talks were held with the IMF shortly before the two-tier system was announced.

January 7 was the date fixed for the first tender. But nothing happened. We understand that the *Bank of Sierra Leone* did obtain an L10m credit beforehand to help service the initial operation. It appears that there were no bidders, perhaps because the floor price on the tender was fixed too high. The failure was compounded by the *Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board's* prior announcement (in anticipation of the tender working) of higher producer prices for coffee, cocoa, palm kernel and ginger. Several private businessmen similarly raised their prices for domestic consumer goods.

Fooling with Foulahs

Another jolt, with economic and foreign relations repercussions, was the rounding up and arrest shortly before Christmas of about 500 Guinean Foulahs — mostly petty traders and labourers. (In 1968, when he came to power, Stevens singled out the Foulahs for rough treatment because of their alleged support for the outgoing SLPP government of Sir Albert Margai. Two prominent Foulahs, one a tribal headman, were repatriated).

The immediate effect was an acute shortage of milk, bread, butter and non-essentials such as cigarettes following the closure by Foulah traders of their shops in protest and fear. Others hid, thus depriving most middle-class Sierra Leoneans of their Guinean servants.

After sharp exchanges between Stevens and his Guinean counterpart, **Ahmed Sekou Touré**, and a hasty Freetown-Conakry shuttle by Sierra Leone's foreign minister, **Abdulai Conteh**, the two leaders appeared to have reached some sort of agreement. A Sierra Leone government statement later said that all 500 Guineans had been released while 400 of them were told to return to Guinea and obtain valid travelling documents. None was deported. In his second statement on the issue, Stevens said: "Sierra Leone does not and cannot discriminate against Foulahs many of whom were either born here, work here or lived in the country for a considerable length of time."

The obvious reason for the sudden anti-Foulah drive was as a means of siphoning some popular discontent over food shortages and high prices from the government to "foreigners". In fact there is little popular anti-Foulah feeling in Sierra Leone. Afro-Lebanese, Lebanese and Indians (the latter to a lesser extent) are held far more responsible.

Unconfirmed reports from Freetown suggest that the episode had its origin in the finding by Foulahs of a large flawless diamond. We understand that the diamond was offered to a leading Lebanese businessman, who offered too low a price. **Bailor Barrie**, a popular Foulah businessman with interests in domestic flights, diamonds and cars, bought it instead.

Whatever the reason for the Foulah's troubles, some damage has probably been done to Stevens' relations with Touré, despite the latter's past dislike of Foulahs. (Foulahs were for long the only people who resisted Touré's violent rule. In 1976 they were accused *en masse* of plotting against the government. **Diallo Telli**, minister of justice and former secretary-general of the OAU, was singled out as their leader, and in 1977 starved to death in prison).

The 1971 coup attempt, led by the then army commander, Brig. John Bangura, led to a contingent of Guinean troops remaining in Sierra Leone for about two years as part of a defence treaty hastily signed at the time between the two countries. While the Mano River Union treaty between Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia provides, in theory, for the free movement of peoples across the signatories' mutual borders, the defence pact with Guinea is far more important for Stevens. Touré himself has always been worried at the prospect of instability in the region, and until recently has seemingly taken the view that Stevens should be helped. Last year, for example, Touré was instrumental in Sierra Leone becoming a member of the Saudi Arabia-based *Islamic Council*. (It means Arab money. Guinea is one of the biggest recipients of Arab aid — AC Vol 22 No 17).

Emerging opposition

Exiled opposition groups in Western Europe and the US are slowly coming together, as predicted (AC Vol 23 No 21). The London-based *Sierra Leone Alliance Movement* (SLAM), led by Ambrose Ganda, appears to have attracted considerable support from Sierra Leoneans in West Germany. At the end of last year a meeting was held in Berlin at which Ganda called for unification of the various groups. SLAM, curiously, now has a fairly active branch in Berlin. We understand that SLAM has already provisionally agreed to merge with the *Sierra Leone Freedom Council* (SLFC) (a mini-reincarnation of the SLPP) and that preliminary talks have been held with the *National Alliance Party* (NAP) a small, apparently fairly left-wing group based in New York, whose new leadership has publicly stated its aim to overthrow Stevens by force. We anticipate that a successful merging of SLAM, SLFC and NAP would result in a motion to usurp Stevens by any means necessary.

So far none of the above groups has any significant organisation within Sierra Leone, although SLAM in particular has a lot of popular support there. The clandestine distribution of opposition leaflets in Freetown has increased. The much curtailed trade union movement in Sierra Leone, under the umbrella of the *Sierra Leone Labour Council* (SLLC), may in time provide the backbone for organised internal opposition. The SLLC's former secretary-general, James Kabia, is in exile at Oxford University in the UK ●

'RAND DAILY MAIL' CRITICIZES SECRECY ON 'SALEM AFFAIR'

MB280947 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 28 Feb 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Behind the Threats"]

[Text] Amidst the decades-long onslaughts by the nationalists on our freedoms, at least one historical liberty has remained untouched: The right of elected parliamentary representatives to speak without fear--and going with this the right of the press to publish what they say.

Of course parliament, with its racial restrictions on members and voters, is not what it should be. And members of parliament have been stripped of their seats, after election, because of their political views. And, too, it has become increasingly fashionable for cabinet ministers to refuse to give information to inquiring MPs.

But with all this, parliament has still been a central forum where the aspirations and grievances of South Africans--both the enfranchised and the disenfranchised--could be aired. In particular it has been a court of last recourse: When officialdom has ridden roughshod over the rights of an individual, or there has been outrageous government behaviour, or cabinet ministers or officials have refused to yield information to the press, then at least everyone has known that when the next session of parliament comes round the opportunity will arise for concerned MPs to put their questions and let fly with their comments.

It could hardly be more basic. Yet now, finally, the nationalists are challenging the tradition of unfettered parliamentary privilege. They are doing so because of their quite extraordinary determination to insure that only what they approve is made known in South Africa about the Salem affair.

Mark that phrase: In South Africa. For plentiful reports about the Salem affair have been published abroad. Details have appeared in newspapers and in British law reports. At least some South Africans--those who subscribe to overseas newspapers or law reports--will have read the accounts.

But most South Africans have been kept in a state of some ignorance about the matter. They have been able to read and to hear only what the government, using the far-reaching powers it took to itself in 1977 with the Petroleum Products Act, decides is fit for them.

The test of what is fit for the public is unknown. No doubt the government, being the government, will assert that it is "national security" or "national interest" or some suchlike. Can it, however, be doubted that in all the circumstances the essential motivation is to conceal from the public the government's failure to protect the interests of taxpayers?

Why else should there be these desperate efforts to prevent further publication in South Africa or material which all the rest of the world knows? Why else has there been such total failure to tell the public who was responsible for the loss of R30.5-million of public money (that is what it is, in whatever guise it is presented), what action has been taken against the perpetrators, and what has been done to insure that it does not happen again?

As we noted last week, the PFP's [Progressive Federal Party] Mr John Malcomess has performed a major service in raising the Salem issue in parliament. He tore aside the veil of secrecy, and has bravely stuck to his guns since then. Instead of ministers assailing and threatening him, why don't they simply answer his questions? What are they hiding?

CSO: 3400/831

JOHANNESBURG COMMENTS ON CHANGES IN FRONTLINE STATES

MB280859 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Station commentary: "A New Basis for Southern Africa"]

[Text] Important changes are taking place in Southern African perspectives. Properly handled, they could lead in time to the laying of a basis for a new and more constructive relationship in the region.

The changes are noted in an analysis of regional power relations that has been done by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. The institute points out that there has been a marked decline in the influence of the frontline states in Southern African affairs since Zimbabwe gained its independence. The group's ability to make any significant impact on South Africa's political and military dominance of the subcontinent has progressively diminished.

The reasons are contained in the situation of the countries themselves. Their leaders paid a heavy price for their rise to prominence in the seventies in a joint drive to achieve the goal of a black-ruled independent Zimbabwe. Among the other countries, civil dissension had reached serious proportions. In some it was even being expressed in organized resistance designed to overthrow the governments by military means.

It is small wonder that the Institute for Strategic Studies is struck by the divisions that have crept into the frontline grouping since 1980. There has been a turning inward among its members, prompted by the realization that national interests cannot be submerged in pursuit of the illusory grandeur of challenging South Africa's dominance of Southern Africa, and it is that changing perspective especially that may yet enable the region to realize something of its vast potential for development.

The abandonment by Southern Africa's leaders of the illusion is still a long way from acceptance of the implications of their situation. Two years have passed since Dr Chester Crocker pointed out the importance of the network of interests that link the republic and its neighbors, a network which he described as vital to the survival of their political systems and economies. It was Dr Crocker that reminded those leaders that South Africa was able to provide the essential factors for development which were absent elsewhere on the continent: Technical and entrepreneurial skills, capital, trade, transport links and electricity supply.

The signs that the message has been grasped are few, but an acknowledgement of the fact of South Africa's dominant position and the futility of escapist politics and a new concern with national, economic and social needs--these are at least a start. They are essential elements of a foundation on which a more productive relationship could be built.

CSO: 3400/831

BLACK LEADERS SLAM HORWOOD'S MINI-BUDGET

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 18 Feb 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

HOPE that the six percent General Sales Tax would be reduced were shattered yesterday when the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, presented a bland mini-budget to Parliament with no cuts in tax.

In his speech, Mr Horwood said he had been under pressure from the Press to reduce GST. He referred to his remarks last year that the present six percent GST was necessary for aid to drought-stricken farmers, assistance to the land bank and larger subsidies for bread.

He would deal more fully with taxation in his main budget speech next month, he said.

Black leaders reacted with shock and dismay at the news that there would be no cuts in GST and urged the Government to scrap the tax on basic foodstuffs.

"I am very disappointed," Inkatha's publicity secretary Mr Gibson Thula said. "It would be much better if GST did not affect basic foodstuffs like bread. And it's unfortunate that the underdogs — the low income groups — are rarely considered. The scrapping of the tax could be a great relief to them."

Mrs Lucy Mvubelo, general secretary of the Garment Workers

Union of SA, was equally disappointed. "We expected this. The hardest-hit are those poor families in the rural areas."

Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, said the state should be considering subsidising staple foods like bread, mealie-meal and paraffin rather than charging general sales tax. Although the economy of the state was plummeting downhill, Bishop Tutu said the government could still afford to withdraw sales tax on such foodstuffs and not miss anything.

Mini-Budget Does Not Help Blacks

THE anticipation by many that the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, would deliver a mini-budget to relieve a long suffering populace from the pressures of inflation, was somewhat premature.

The General Sales Tax (GST) which is something that touches the overall lives of the poor and black masses, was not cut. Instead Mr Horwood announced a reduction in some esoteric (for us blacks) area called imports surcharge.

There is no doubt that imports surcharges is something that goes beyond the understanding and even perhaps the needs of the average man in the street. This is the kind of fiscal measure that affects multinational companies. We hope by some of the mysterious spiral effects of the system, we may gain something from these reductions — but we cannot be too optimistic.

Most of us have come to live with the GST, irksome and burdensome as this measure is. It has the invisi-

ble and now the most visible effect on our daily budgets as it affects the bread and butter necessities, without which we cannot live.

It would have been something like off our backs had the general tax been reduced so that we would have been able to face up to hikes in rent, in fares and all-round costs that have increasingly overwhelmed our lives.

It seems parliamentary budgetary packages, mini or otherwise, follow the capitalist dictum that the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

CSO: 3400/821

ELDORADO LABOR LEADER BACKS LP STANCE

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 18 Feb 83 p 10

[Article by Elliot Tshingwala]

[Text]

ELDORADO Park Labour Party representative Mr Don Mateman, is a softspoken man with a lot of guts. He recently survived three "chaotic" meetings during which chairs were thrown and punches traded during an attempt to disrupt the meeting by opposing factions.

Yet Mr Mateman, an active trade unionist, still clings tenaciously to the Labour Party, which was recently accused of "selling out" the people after it accepted Government proposals for the President's Council.

Yesterday, The SOWETAN went to see Mr Mateman at his request at his office at Eldorado Park where he also works as a director for a church-run community project. In his office, where he sees a number of people per day and helps them with documental problems, he told us of his involvement in the struggle.

He told me how they founded one of the first trade unions in the country, the African Textile Trade Union in 1963. In those days conditions and pay were so bad for the worker that they decided to start a campaign to force employers to pay workers at least a pound (an equivalent of R2) a day.

That was the beginning of "The Pound a Day" campaign which highlighted the plight of the worker.

Mr Mateman is today an executive member of the South African Council of Trade Unions (Sactu). Besides his involvement in the union movement he was also an active member of the South African Coloured People's Congress which opposed parties like the Coloured National party, which stood for apartheid. The Coloured People's Congress was also represented in the Congress Alliance, a body on which the banned ANC was also represented. Mr Mateman said this is

where he met "the cream of black leadership."

The Congress Alliance was banned with other organisations during the early '60s. Numerous people, including Mr Mateman, were also banned.

When his banning order expired he joined the Labour Party and continued his involvement in the struggle. During those days the LP was a "relevant" body and believed in politics of confrontation.

When they joined the Black Alliance with Inkatha, Inyandza and the Indian Reform Party, he realised how disorganised they were.

"I felt small when I observed how KaNgwane people, including young children, responded to a call by their leader to attend a rally. Old and young came in droves but that is not possible with us. We are not united like Zulus or Swazis are, we are just a conglomerate of opposing factions without a head," he said.

A strong leadership was necessary to unite the factions and to form them into a nation. This, he said, would only be possible if they had some form of political representation like other groups. The President's Council proposals offered them that, he said.

Mr Mateman spoke of certain coloureds who wanted to help the African.

"It is folly for these people to think they can do anything for the African. The African is well organised and does not need anybody to get his freedom for him," he said emphatically.

He led a scathing attack on a Black Consciousness activist who also lived in Eldorado Park. He branded the man, a former detainee, of being an "individualist", who was just not cut out for politics.

"He should stay a poet because he was just not out for politics. I hate to say this but there is nothing I can do if he stands in my way," said a half-amused Mr Mateman.

ILLEGAL SHACKS OUTNUMBER HOMES IN KATLEHONG

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 18 Feb 83 p 8

[Article by Sam Mabe]

[Text]

COMPARED with other Black residential areas like Soweto, Kagiso, Mohlakeng and others on the Reef, Katlehong is most qualified to be called a slum.

The houses there are old and falling apart and there is a complete lack of proper fencing which shows that maintenance has not been done for many years.

But this is only as far as the council-owned houses are concerned. Otherwise, many residents of Katlehong seem very particular about the houses they live in and are going all-out to improve their appearances.

IMPROVE

According to the chairman of the Katlehong Community Council, Mr A P Khumalo, only 20 percent of the 18 000 houses in Katlehong are owned by the council. The rest have

been bought from the council by their occupants.

And those who have bought their houses have done a lot to improve them. Some have added more rooms to the four-roomed houses, while others have completely demolished the houses to build better ones from scratch.

Double-storey mansions with double garages, four and five bedrooms, big lounges, dining-rooms and family-rooms are a familiar sight in Katlehong.

Many of them, however, are surrounded by the old shabby-looking houses and the numerous shacks which have turned Katlehong into a "shack-city."

Said Mr Elphus Mo-

naeng who owns a nine-roomed house: "We have been blessed with big plots here and this is what has made us the envy of many people from places like Soweto.

PROBLEMS

"Our only misfortune is that while some of the houses may be nice-looking, they happen to be in awful surroundings because the streets here are not tarred and we have problems with dust during the dry seasons and mud during the wet seasons.

"This results in houses not appreciating quickly in value, because the area where a house is situated has a lot to do with its value," he said.

CSO: 3400/821

BRIEFS

PRO-ANC PAMPHLETS--The National Union of South African Students [NUSAS] has commented on pamphlets allegedly printed by the union and distributed nationally. With details it is Beatty Hofmeyer in Cape Town. [Hofmeyer] the pamphlet imitates the format of the NUSAS publication. It calls on students to support the ANC and asks them to choose between serving in the defense force and in Umkhonto We Sizwe, the ANC's military wing. The pamphlets state that students must decide whether they are prepared to kill for the liberation struggle. Thousands of copies were distributed to the University of Cape Town, the University of Durban, Pietermaritzburg and the Witwatersrand. Much of its contents could constitute high treason according to a statement from NUSAS, head office. In the statement NUSAS rejects the pamphlet as a deliberate slur on them. They see it as an attempt to discredit their legitimate opposition to apartheid. [Text] [MB241111 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 83]

SANCTUARY FOR LESOTHO REFUGEES--Transkei has given sanctuary to large numbers of people from Lesotho where political instability is reported to be turning many people into refugees. The Transkei Department of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement saying that the unstable situation in Lesotho has in recent years led to a campaign of harassment by the Lesotho police and army against supporters of the Basutoland Congress Party. It claimed that individuals and sometimes entire families were arrested and beaten and that homes were sometimes burned down. It said that until recently many of the refugees had been able to stay with relatives in Transkei, but the number of refugees had increased toward the end of last year and they were now being accommodated in the (Maluti) and (Mount Fletcher) districts. The statement said that Transkei had called in the help of the International Red Cross and that Red Cross officials had visited the refugees last weekend. It said refugee camps had been established at (St Pauls), (Queens Mercy) and (Mount Fletcher). [Text] [MB260625 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Feb 83]

INDIAN S REJECT PROPOSALS--About 80 delegates representing Indian consultative and management committees have rejected the government's proposals regarding local government. At the Second Annual Conference of the Transvaal Association of Asian Consultative and Management Committees at Laudium today, the speakers rejected the idea of separate autonomous Indian and colored municipalities. They cited as reasons the lack of trained personnel, uncertainty regarding financial implications, and the fact that geographic areas have not been clearly defined. [Text] [MB280640 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Feb 83]

POLICE RESERVE FORCE INCREASED--The chief of reservists of the South African police, Brigadier (Marie Van Zyl), says the force of reservists has grown by 117 percent to 25,000 members over the past year. He says interest remains high among whites and Indians, but that coloreds and blacks do not show the same degree of concern. He says reservists have such an important role to play in lightening the workload of the police force that they cannot be dispensed with at this stage. [Text] [MB280720 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 83]

CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS--Several national states and administrative boards are busy establishing civil defense organizations. Our Pretoria news staff reports that the governments of virtually all the national states are particularly keen on establishing their own civil defense organizations. In Kwazulu and Qwa Qwa, legislation to provide for this will probably be passed by the legislative assembly this year, and Gazankulu is also drafting legislation. Kwandebele has also indicated that it intends to pass legislation on civil defense. The northern Transvaal Administration Board has already established civil defense units in black townships in the region. A chief of civil defense has been appointed and contingency plans formulated. The Southern Free State Administration Board intends to budget for 30,000 rands for 1983-84 for the establishment of civil defense units in all the towns under its jurisdiction. The Port Natal Administration Board is still in the planning stage, and in the Eastern Cape the administration board has drafted a general plan of action for emergencies in conjunction with community councils in black townships. On the West Rand, where black communities are not yet involved in civil defense actions, the administration board and black authorities have, however, already created a communications network. [Text] [MB280713 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 83]

SOFASONKE PARTY MEETING--THE ORLANDO East-based Sofasonke Party is to hold a public meeting this weekend to discuss the ongoing demolition of the area's 4 000 shacks. The party's chief executive officer, Mr Ambition Brown, said yesterday the meeting would be expected to decide on the proposed building of additional rooms by the Soweto Council at Orlando East. The council has proposed plans to build extra rooms at a cost of R1 000 each in place of shacks. The meeting will be held at DOCC on Sunday and will start at 9am. The residents will, among other things, discuss the proposed rent increase of R12 a month per extra room and the pending case which is due to be heard in the Rand Supreme Court next Monday. Mr Brown said: "The authorities have continued to demolish shacks at Orlando East despite appeals from different organisations to leave the structures". [Text] [Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 18 Feb 83 p 9]

CSO: 3400/821

EDITORIAL WARNS AGAINST POSTPONING ELECTIONS

MB251151 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 25 Feb 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Confusion Must Be Avoided"]

[Text] The fifth and last session of the third parliament of Swaziland opens this afternoon. This is the first parliament under the Tinkhundla system of government introduced in 1978.

Speaking at the opening of parliament in February 1980, his late majesty King Sobhuza II expressed his satisfaction at its performance during its first year.

Again in February last year, he expressed the same satisfaction of its performance during its four years in operation. He said: "Our Tinkhundla experiment has worked exceedingly well."

He attributed the climate of stability, harmony and national progress in the country to this system, for which he had high hopes.

The second elections under this system are scheduled to be held before the end of this year in terms of the establishment of parliament order of 1978.

However, disturbing rumours today are that some people, including certain parliamentarians, are opposed to the holding of elections at this stage. One of the reasons for their opposition being that the mourning period of the late king is not quite over until members of the royal household (emakhosikati) discard their mourning costumes between two and three years from now.

We feel that postponing the elections for another two or three years would have an adverse effect, especially on the country's economy.

Swaziland is at a stage where any political decision should be given thorough consideration before it is taken. Political decisions that might cause confusion should be avoided. We should not lose sight of the fact that our parliamentarians as well as members of the electoral college were elected for a period of five years.

This means, therefore, that if the parliamentarians and the college members were to continue in office for another period of two or three years without a fresh mandate from the electorate this would be a dangerous precedent.

What this means is that during the two or three years in office the members would no longer be representing anyone, but themselves. As we pointed out last week, South Africa press reports of a coup attempt have done this country great harm.

The increasing rumours of disagreements within the leadership are doing the country no service either. This is the time when those in the leadership should be more united than ever.

This is the time when everyone should be striving to insure that the climate of stability, harmony and national progress the late king referred to only 12 months ago, continued to prevail.

This is also a time when our present leaders must put national service before any other personal consideration and work with complete dedication for the advancement of this country and its people.

We hope that as both houses settle down to tackle the work before them, members will dispose of the business faithfully and honestly. We have no doubt that members of the government bench will continue to accept constructive criticisms from back benchers with honour and dignity.

It is such criticism in all democratic parliaments that keeps cabinet ministers on their toes and conscious of the responsibility they have to the electorate.

We hope that parliament will throw out any attempts to have the elections postponed.

CSO: 3400/832

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH ZAMBIA TO INCREASE

MB241600 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 24 Feb 83 p 24

[Article by Mashumi Twala]

[Excerpts] Swaziland and Zambia are soon to begin a special economic relationship. They will establish an economic cooperation body, to be shown as the Swaziland-Zambia Trade Commission.

Under the plan both countries will gain free markets in each other for their export products. [sentence as published]

This was said yesterday by the Zambian high commissioner to Swaziland Mr Cox Sikumba. Mr Sikumba, speaking after a meeting with the minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, said the minister had expressed interest in the idea and wanted to see it put to practice soon. He added: "Mr Dlamini said both countries should move fast to implement this idea."

Mr Sikumba said the idea was the "brainchild" of Prime Minister Prince Mabandla. He said: "It was Prince Mabandla who suggested such a body in order for the two countries to strengthen both their economic and social links, thus developing themselves in the process."

"The idea was considered and has been approved."

"Basically, the plan is to use the two main economic development organizations we each have, that is Tibiyo Takangwane and our Zimco [Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation], to work hand-in-hand in their functions. They will be required to explore and consider areas where our two countries can cooperate with each other."

"For instance, Swaziland has as one of its major exports timber and woodpulp which Zambia needs. Zambia has, for instance, copper which Swaziland can process. We have wheat and we have sugar, all these are what this new body will make sure we exchange for the benefit of all."

Mr Sikumba said his immediate duty now was to return to his government and inform it that Swaziland is "ready to go."

Mr Sikumba is based in Maputo.

CSO: 3400/832

BRIEFS

EGYPT DONATES DRUGS--The government of Egypt has donated 16 boxes of medicine to Uganda. The handing over ceremony was performed by the Egyptian ambassador to Uganda Mr Mahmoud Gauzy Kamel at his office in Kampala. The ambassador praised the relationship that has been existing between Uganda and Egypt since colonial times until both states achieved independence. He said that the two countries are sisters and they have tried to solve the social, economic problems affecting their two states. He emphasized that his country would continue to extend assistance to their brothers and sisters in Uganda. He further reaffirmed that the medicine was of fine quality and good reputation. This, he said, has been proved by the countries which have received the medicine ever since the drug industry opened. The minister of health, Dr Ezra Nkwasiwe, deeply appreciated the assistance and the concern the government of Egypt had in Uganda. He also thanked the Egyptians who have been working in Uganda. The minister pointed out that some doctors from Egypt are expected to be here some time to assist in our hospitals. Others present at the ceremony were top officials in the ministry of health. [Text] [Kampala UGANDA TIMES in English 26 Jan 83 p 3]

CSO: 3400/861

JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH GUINEA NOTED

AB271421 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Joint Communiqué on Visit of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure to Zaire-- issued in Kinshasa on 26 February read by State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Kamanda wa Kamanda]

[Text] At the invitation of Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic of Zaire, His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea and supreme leader of the revolution, paid a friendly and working visit to the Republic of Zaire from 23 to 25 February 1983. The Guinean presidential delegation was made up of Abdoulaye Toure, member of the political bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Moussa Diakite, member of the political bureau and minister of housing, state lands and urban affairs; N'Famata Keita, member of the political bureau and minister of energy; Gen Lansana Diane, member of the political bureau and minister of the people's army; Mamady Keita, member of the political bureau and minister of higher education and scientific research; Mouctar Diallo, member of the political bureau and minister of mid-level technical education and professional training; Jeanne Martin-Cisse, member of the political bureau and minister of social affairs; Senainon Bwhanzin, secretary of the political bureau and minister of agropastoral farms and agricultural cooperatives; Mrs Fatou Diarra, Guinea's ambassador to Zaire; Mami Koyate, Guinea's ambassador to Mozambique; Ali Bangoura, Guinea's ambassador to Tanzania; Daouda Berete, ambassador and chief of state protocol; Mrs Aretou Zoumagui, parliamentary top personalities of the Guinean party state.

The Zairian presidential delegation included Kamanda wa Kamanda, member of the Central Committee and state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation; Kamitatu Massamba, secretary of state for agriculture, rural development and environment; Umba Kamitala, secretary of state for mines and energy; Sampasa Kaweta Milonbe, member of the Central Committee and secretary of state for university and higher education; Ndolela Si Ki Konde, member of the Central Committee and state commissioner for primary and secondary education; Makolo Jib-Layi, state commissioner for public health and social welfare; Kangaku Zingi Bugumbangana, member of the Central Committee in charge of the training of cadres; Nzandabuana Kalembe, member of the Central Committee in charge of the youth of the popular movement of the revolution

[words indistinct]; Nimi Mayedikangimbi, director of the office of the president of the republic; Lomponda Wabomtende, vice admiral, secretary of state for national defense; Mbamba Nganga, secretary of state for land affairs; Atundu Liongo, diplomatic adviser to the president; Belshika Kabwalobie, Zaire's ambassador to Guinea; Niwa Mobutu, Zaire's roving ambassador and Bande Laritie, principal adviser for foreign affairs and ambassador.

During his visit, Sekou Toure and Mobutu Sese Seko held many rounds of talks which centered on important African and world issues and bilateral cooperation. On this occasion, the two heads of state expressed satisfaction with the excellent relations which unite the two brotherly people of Guinea and Zaire. During their discussions, they stressed the need to strengthen the cooperation which strongly exists between the two countries. In this regard, they reaffirmed their strong desire to see the existing cooperation agreements implemented and expanded with the aim of promoting the development of their respective economies and of responding to the needs and aspirations of their peoples in order to strengthen the friendship and brotherhood between the two peoples.

During his stay, Sekou Toure visited the Voice of Zaire offices, the president's agroindustrial estate at Nsele, Kinshasa, the Inga hydroelectric dam in the Bas-Zaire region and the railroad bridge at Matadi.

While examining the world situation, the two heads of state devoted special attention to current pressing issues. They expressed their desire to see all conflicts in Africa and in the world in general solved through dialogue and consultation.

Concerning the OAU crisis, the two heads of state pointed out that this results from the violation of the organization's charter and reaffirmed their common desire and determination to save the continental organization, which is a privileged and irreplaceable instrument for Africa's development. They also recommend the strict respect of the fundamental principles of the OAU charter.

On Chad, the two heads of state once again affirmed that it is for the Chadians themselves to choose the leaders they want and to adopt options of their choice. The two leaders unanimously stressed the undeniable rights of Chad as a sovereign state and a founding member of the OAU to participate in the running of the organization.

On the western Sahara, the two heads of state agreed that a solution to this conflict can only be found through the exercising of the right of self-determination by the Saharans through a referendum as decided by the OAU. As such, decisions made unanimously in Nairobi during the 18th OAU summit in 1980 by the heads of state should be respected. Therefore decisions made by the 12-nation committee which just met in Nairobi are only binding on the 12 countries involved and at the utmost, on the 29 states that set up the committee.

Concerning Namibia, after noting the ongoing negotiations, the two heads of state felt that Namibia's independence should be total and authentic in conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 435 without modification or any

hindrance by avoiding the introduction of foreign elements which modify the nature of the Namibian problem which is essentially colonial.

In this regard, the two heads of state made an urgent appeal to all peace- and justice-loving countries to put pressure on the contact group countries so that they will force South Africa to respect the pertinent UN resolutions. They also condemned the apartheid policy and expressed their faith in the inevitable victory of those who fight for freedom.

Concerning South Africa, the two heads of state rejected the idea that sanctions against South Africa for not respecting the resolutions of the United Nations would further harm the African countries in the region. To the contrary, that would mean legalizing the violation of the said resolutions.

On the eve of the 7th Summit meeting of the nonaligned movement, the two heads of state emphasized the necessity to restore to the movement its original vigor and efficiency the strictly respecting its basic principles, its philosophy and by reviving the spirit of democracy in which it has always operated. The two heads of state shared the view that it is only this attitude of the movement which can represent the real factor for peace and safeguard its real independence against the blocs.

In the face of the difficult economic situation the world is experiencing, the two heads of state expressed the need to strengthen south-south cooperation and regarded it as a necessity for development and an important element for the establishment of a new world economic order. In this regard, the two presidents stressed the need for African countries to meet in order to define a common strategy capable of safeguarding their common interest during the 7th summit meeting of the member states of the nonaligned countries in New Delhi.

The discussions between the two heads of state were held in an atmosphere of friendship and fraternity.

The two heads of state expressed their satisfaction with the unity of their views and the spirit of cooperation existing between the two countries and stressed the need to see to the full implementation of all the nine agreements they have signed. They expressed their satisfaction with the spirit of cooperation existing between the two brotherly national parties, the MPR and the Guinean Democratic Party, the Party State of Guinea, the two National Workers' Organizations as well as the two countries' youth movements and womens' organizations. They expressed the hope to see this cooperation expand to cover other areas and to lead effectively to the exchange of experiences.

Finally, the two heads of state agreed that after this friendly and working visit, His Excellency President Sekou Toure, the supreme leader of the Guinean revolution, should pay a state visit to the Republic of Zaire at the end of the current year.

They further agreed to multiply contacts between the heads of state whose visits always constitute a privileged and fruitful framework for discussing various international issues as a whole, and African problems in particular.

President Sekou Toure and his delegation thanked Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko and the Zairian people for their hospitality and the warm and fraternal welcome accorded them throughout their stay in Zaire.

Issued in Kinshasa on 25 February 1983.

Signed for the Republic of Zaire: Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, MPR founding chairman and president of the republic.

Signed for the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea: Ahmed Sekou Toure, supreme leader of the Guinean revolution and president of the republic.

CSO: 3419/585

BRIEFS

DEBT TALKS--The Governor of the Bank of Zaire met representatives of 18 agent banks connected with the Refinancing Credit Agreement of March 1980 in London towards the end of last month to discuss repayment of arrears for 1982. According to the News Agency of Nigeria, the Governor, Mr. Sabwa Mbagui, promised to resume regular payments in the next few months on \$60m. of arrears. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3418, 14 Feb 83 p 435]

COBALT MINING REDUCED--Gecamines, Zaire's state-owned quarrying and mining company, has announced that it is to reduce cobalt mining activities substantially because of a sharp decline in market demand recently. Production is having to be stockpiled. Gecamines has the capacity to produce up to 15,000 tonnes a year, making Zaire the world's main producer. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3418, 14 Feb 83 p 435]

CSO: 3400/775

BRIEFS

LEGISLATOR OPPOSES PRESS RESTRICTIONS--Kantanshi member of Parliament, Mr McDonald Mtine, has urged the government to allow the press to operate freely and increase coverage of events in rural areas. Contributing on estimates of expenditure for the minister of information and broadcasting services, Mr Mtine said the censorship would only make the people mistrust the government. He added that radio listeners would start turning to foreign stations, some of which are hostile to Zambia, when the listeners feel their mass media is censored. He also said that coverage should not be confined to a few top personalities, as all sections of society should have free access to the news media; and covering the same people all the time is monotonous. Contributing on the same debate, Mwinilunga member of Parliament, John Kalenga, asked whether it was government policy to have only Bemba and Nyanja on the general service of Radio Zambia. He also wanted to know why a former senior Zambia broadcasting services officer was not allowed to work while being paid by the state. Mr Kalenga also complained about Solwezi being unable to receive television programs like a majority of other provincial centers. (Mwinga) member of Parliament, (?Elliot Chembe) charged that provincial newspapers contained stale news, explaining that rural dwellers who read a lot of these provincial newspapers were entitled to fresh news like other citizens in urban areas. [Text] [MB041555 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 4 Mar 83]

CSO: 3400/875

MINISTER SUGGESTS CHANGING LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM

AB020936 Paris AFP in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, 2 Mar (AFP)--Zimbabwe should scrap the two-chamber legislature provided by the British-drafted independence constitution in favour of a single house, according to Legal and Parliamentary affairs Minister Eddison Zvobgo said. [as received]

Mr Zvobgo, speaking yesterday in the senate, said that if the present system were abolished the assembly should be enlarged. The House of Assembly now has 100 members--80 black and 20 white--under the Lancaster House Constitution of 1979.

The 40-seat senate consists of 10 traditional tribal chiefs, 10 white senators elected by the white MP's, 14 members elected by the black MP's and six chosen by the president.

Mr Zvobgo said the senate was irrelevant to Zimbabwe because it was a duplication of the assembly, and argued that the bicameral system was too costly for a country of 7.5 million people.

"Do we really need this kind of expensive parliamentary system imposed on us by the British?" he asked.

The socialist government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe also objects to the heavily conservative cast given the senate by the mandatory presence of the chiefs and white senators.

If the senate were to continue at all, Mr Zvobgo said, it must be on a non-racial basis. Seats reserved by race in the House of Assembly should be discontinued as well, he said.

Legislative representation for Zimbabwe's 170,00-strong white minority is an entrenched provision in the constitution that cannot be amended before 1986, unless the white MP's themselves vote to abolish it.

CSO: 3400/864

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